

Good News

First Sunday of Advent

Mary Katharine Deeley

I am Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, and I am head of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums in Rome. Since sacred art has always been an essential element of prayer and liturgy, it is a fitting enhancement to our Sunday celebrations. I'll be accompanying you each Sunday over these next three years in these reflections to reflect and pray.

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. We are to ready ourselves to encounter him at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

In ancient times, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence. Today's sculpture, (Piece: Sleeping Servant; Artist unknown; 1st century ad; Location: Vatican, Santa Rosa) which is part of an ancient tombstone, depicts such a servant—albeit one who dozed off.

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise?

For Reflection

What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas, in the Eucharist, and at any other time in our lives?

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Masses

Sun.	7:30	+Jim Hill
	9:00	+Jeanne Fisher & Special Intention for the Deneka Family
	10:30	+Harrell & +"Buddy" Ray Winterrowd
	12:00	+Gloria Andereck
	6:00	Parish
Mon.	6:15	+Gloria Andereck
	8:15	+Gregory Severs
	12:00	+Clayton Poole
Tues.	6:15	+Catherine Joyce
	8:15	+Special Intention for Sarah Costello & Pat Nelson
	12:00	+Tom Kavanagh
Wed.	6:15	+Margie Ryan
	8:15	Special Intention for Jimmy & Ann Riley
	12:00	+Tom Kavanagh
Thurs.	6:15	+Wendell Seelig
	8:15	+Mary Jorgensen
	9:00	+Jim Craven
Fri	6:15	Miracle for Clare Marie Wilson
	8:15	+John & +Winnie Mack & Special Intention for the Wilson Family
	12:00	+Special Intention for Martina Moraga
Sat.	6:15	Miracle for Clare Marie Wilson
	8:15	+Aline Wray
	4:30	+Jim Bedwell & Special Intention of Thanksgiving

Prayers are requested for the sick: Jean Garbarini+Archbishop Peter Sartain+Peggy Steffan+Dr. Tucker Larkin+Deacon Ralph Donati+Mary Harlow+Bob Mader+Sarah Ward+Ann Berry+Mary Jane Miller+ Joyce West+Bernadette Pian+Rose Gaia+Tim Davis+Archie Stewart.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Hydie Downard, Katie McDowell, John Fox and David Mattingly.

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 homebound.

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 27th, 2016—First Sunday of Advent

ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Tuesday, November 29th** and **Thursday, December 1st** from 5-6pm.



FEAST OF

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The second collection next weekend **Saturday, December 3rd** and **Sunday, December 4th** will be for the St. Louis chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

St. Louis SVDP conference thanks all parishioners for your support in helping us try to help the less fortunate in our great city. Our conference is one of ten in the Memphis diocese. We have 41 active members. We meet the first Monday each month at 6 pm in the Clunan Center. This year St. Louis SVDP has helped 1068 families thru 280 home visits + 20 other visits. We also helped 45 families thru phone contacts. Our members gave 2,540 hours of service and drove 6,850 miles to visit our neighbors. We know that we will always have the poor with us. Our goal is to try and help as many people as possible, every day. We/St. Louis support the Ozanam Center, 1306 Monroe which feeds 150-200 people every day of the year. We work the soup kitchen at Holy Names Catholic Church every Wednesday. If you would like to help those less fortunate, please come to a meeting, check our website www.svdpmemphis.org, or call 755-8213 and leave your name and phone number. May the true meaning of Christmas be with you always. Thank you and God bless St. Louis Church.

All are invited to the SVDP Christmas Pot Luck Dinner on **Tuesday, December 6th** at 6:30pm in the Clunan Center. Please let Linda Clark know how many are coming and what you would like to bring to share. You can text or call 569-1355 or email clarkll@bellsouth.net.

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 1st**. For more information contact Susan Smith at 755-9447.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



Photography has started on our Parish Family Album. We are publishing a new pictorial directory through Lifetouch. Reserve your appointment time by clicking the link on stlouischurchmphps.org or call

866-756-0281. Each family will receive a complimentary directory and 8x10 custom color portrait. You will be able to view and select your portraits electronically from a variety of poses. Additional Lifetouch portraits will be available for purchase. Your entire appointment will normally take less than one hour. This is an excellent opportunity for family portraits which will be ready before Christmas.

BONUS: Bring in a non-perishable food item for our St. Vincent de Paul Society and receive a \$5 coupon off of your Lifetouch portrait order.

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 19th**.

SAVE THE DATE

ADVENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY



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. Deliveries will begin **Thursday, December 8th**.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

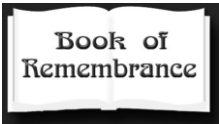
ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION

An Advent Morning of Reflection for all Ministers to the Sick with Fr. Rick Mickey titled "Our J-O-Y" will be held on Saturday, December 3rd from 8:45-11am at St. Ann Catholic Church, Bartlett. RSVP by **Monday, November 28th** by calling 373-1237 or email Pam.ray@cc.cdom.org.

20s & 30s GROUP

The new 20's & 30's Group is growing fast, but we still want you to join! Be a part of something new and exciting while gaining fellowship and a stronger appreciation for our Faith. Join St. Louis' 20's & 30's Group by emailing Megan Buscher at megan.buscher@ymail.com or sending a text to 497-2237 with your name and email address. We are beginning to plan our winter social, don't miss out!

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.



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 18th**. All gifts will be distributed by Catholic Charities.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS



The Senior High Youth Group will not meet on **Sunday, November 27th**. Junior High will meet on **Sunday, November 27th** from 4:30-5:45pm in the St. John Paul II Youth Ministry Center. 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](#). To be added to the email distribution list, email Hannah Hill at Hannah.zaleski@stlouis.cdom.org and include the grade of your child.

PILGRIMAGE WITH FR. DEXTER

Anniversary Pilgrimage to Fatima, Santiago de Compostela, Saragoza, and Lourdes, **April 18-28, 2017** with Fr. Dexter Noblefranca. \$3836 plus \$160 taxes include air, lodging, and 2 meals a day with wine served at dinner, and all admission fees. Early reservations are needed, as seats are limited. Brochures are in the office or contact Jeannie Presley for more information at 335-4563.

Banns of Marriage

Banns of Marriage are announced for the first time for **Bramlett McLaurin and Austin Myers**.

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 Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm Psalm 72
Second Reading Romans 15:4-9
Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

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, and Capt. Charlie Kennedy.

OFFERTORY REPORT

Week of November 20, 2016

Total collection	\$39,368
Envelopes	\$31,485
Electronic	\$6,401
Loose	\$1,482
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	1,805
Donated by envelopes	401 families
Donated electronically	94 families
Non-participants	1,310 families
28% of families participated . . . 72% did not	

PRISON MINISTRY



Each Christmas, we supply 450 inmates of C.C.A. Prison in Mason, Tennessee, a Christmas package containing a white towel, large bar of soap, large toothpaste, pen, four Christmas cards along with a card from St. Louis Catholic Church.

We would appreciate cash or check donations so the items may be purchased in bulk and must be all the same brand and size. Any donations may be left in the church office for St. Louis Prison Ministry.

SAVE THE DATE: WMOS

Women's Morning of Spirituality will be held on **Saturday February 25th** at the Church of the Incarnation from 8:15am-1:30pm with a Continental Breakfast beginning at 7:15am. Keynote Speaker is Reneé Hendrix. Witness Speaker is Kelli Williams. Music with Bethany and Kevin Paige. Register at www.womensmorning.com.

WOW—WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Please join us every Tuesday in the Clunan Center Meeting Room to discuss the Gospel of Matthew beginning on **Tuesday, November 29th**. 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.



BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS



The Health and Wellness Ministry will be doing free Blood Pressure screenings following 4:30pm Mass on **Saturday, December 3rd** and from 8:30am-12pm on **Sunday, December 4th** in the Parish Social Ministry Office.

ROOM IN THE INN

St. Louis Parish is participating in Room in the Inn Memphis. 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. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/SLCRITI> to volunteer. We also welcome financial donations, as well as new underwear for men and women. Call Pam Scarbrough at 763-0295 or Ann Drennan at 674-2117.

LEBONHEUR MINISTRY

The next luncheon we will host for the families on the 5th floor will be held on **Saturday, December 3rd**. Check the sign up at www.tinyurl.com/stlouissignup to volunteer.

R.C.I.A.

R.C.I.A. is the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This program is designed to help non-Catholics learn about the Catholic faith. Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. It is not too late to join. If you are interested in learning about the Catholic faith or if you are interested in helping someone who is pursuing the faith, contact Deacon Jeff Drzycimski at 682-6606 or deaconjeff@thecatholiccafe.com or Anna Shelton at anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org.

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. **Adorers are needed for the 3pm slot on Mondays, 1am slot on Tuesdays, the 2am (shared time) and 5pm slots on Fridays, the 9pm slot on the 1st and 2nd Saturdays of each month and the 10am and 4pm slots on Sundays.**

Contact Jan O'Donnell with questions by email at jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org or call 255-1954.

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. Among their programs is one that works with newcomers to our country and assists them on their path towards United States Citizenship. Please donate at www.ccwtn.org or by returning the envelope found in the brochure mailed to your home.



ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Apply for enrollment by calling the school office at 255-1900 or apply online at www.stlouismemphis.org. Because of limited space in our Preschool, it is imperative that parents apply for admission 18 months prior to the start of your child's school career. We offer priority enrollment to siblings of current students and to contributing members of our parish. Check our website for a detailed explanation of our admissions process. Those interested in K-8th grade for the 2017-18 school year should call or apply online as soon as possible. Enrollment will take place in early 2017. Tours and shadow days can be scheduled with our Admissions Director, Kim Pesce.

SAA-SDS GINGERBREAD HOUSE

St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School invites you to The Gingerbread House—A Sweet Shopping Extravaganza **Friday, December 2nd** and **Saturday, December 3rd**. The Gingerbread House features over 60 vendors, pictures with Santa, and much more! The event kicks off with a Ladies Night Preview Party on **Friday, December 2nd** from 6:30-9:30pm. Cost for Ladies Night is \$35 for advance purchase and \$40 at the door. The Gingerbread House is open for shopping **Saturday, December 3rd** from 8am-4pm and admission is \$5. Shoppers can select from a wide array of merchandise, including clothing, jewelry, artwork, food, sporting goods and holiday decorations. For more information contact bhamilton@saa-sds.org or call 435-5816.

NOTRE DAME CLUB SPEAKER

The Notre Dame Club of Memphis will sponsor the Hesburgh Lecture at OLPH in St. Therese Hall on Monday, December 5th from 7-9pm (including Q & A). Nicole Garnett, Law School, University of Notre Dame will speak about the importance of Catholic schools for disadvantaged children and urban neighborhoods. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Kenny at 237-7048 or Charlie@rightbrainpeople.com.

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, electronic giving is an easy way to make contributions.

To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit our website at www.stlouischurchmphs.org and click on the Online Giving button. Thank you for your generosity and support!

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Even though the Year of Mercy has ended, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will continue every Friday at 2:30pm in the Church. All are welcome.



ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

Advent is when we turn our attention to Mary and Joseph as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. Ann Leatherman will present this day on **Saturday, December 3rd**

from 8:30am-12:45pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center. This Advent Day of Reflection will be a time of diving into the Mysteries of our Holy Mother and the unique role she plays in Salvation History. Suggested offering: \$30.00. To register, email Debbie.voyles@olqp.cdom.org or call 731-548-2500.

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. 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. Teenagers who have completed the Red Cross Babysitting Certification Course assist staff members.

The Catholic Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee encourages all victims, or parents of minors who are victims, of sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or diocesan employee or agent, to report such abuse by phoning any of the following numbers: Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline (1-877-237-0004) or Shari Lee, Victim Assistance Coordinator (652-4066); or Jim Latta, Office of Professional Responsibility, Child and Youth Protection (359-2027). All reports will be treated in a confidential manner. The Diocese of Memphis offers a program of psychological and spiritual assistance to abused victims in need.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Contact Ray Mullins at
rmullins@stlouismemphis.org



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. Donations help to cover working costs of the Memphis Diocese's website (www.cdom.org), weekly online news in the West Tennessee Catholic, the diocesan calendar and Facebook – always with free access for you.

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.

60+ SINGLES

Diocesan Catholic Sixty Plus Singles "Where faith and fun meet and mingle" will hold a Christmas Gathering on **Saturday, December 3rd** from 6-9pm at Church of the Resurrection Parish. Bring your favorite appetizer and Dirty Santa gift not to exceed \$20. RSVP to: Sheila May at 484-7567 or Memphismomma51@yahoo.com.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

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.