

## Good News

### Third Sunday of Advent

*Fr. Mark Haydu, LC*

John came to announce a savior, but in his difficult imprisonment, he and his disciples began to wonder if the one he announced was truly the one. It is easy to doubt when difficulty comes our way and life doesn't treat us as we think we deserve. In this painting, a young John the Baptist is accompanied by an angel who points up the hill. John is shown kneeling in prayer, referencing the months he spent in the desert preparing himself as well as preaching conversion. Even with this long and fruitful preparation, John's heart is tempted to doubt. Yes, even saints struggle.

John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. It does us much good to bring our concerns and doubts to Jesus directly! Jesus responds as he often does. Rather than just answer, "I am he"—which could easily be considered an empty claim—he invites them to look at the evidence. He fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 35:5: "The eyes of the blind shall see, and the ears of the deaf be opened," the poor shall find a new reason to hope.

Jesus' mission is to change lives and to save us from the blindness of egoism, the deafness of a hardened heart, and the closed mind that cannot accept the other. He is the savior of those who let themselves be saved.

Saint James' exhortation could have been meant for John the Baptist or anyone who finds it hard to persevere in trusting and following Jesus: "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (5:8).

For Reflection

What doubts about God arise in my heart? How do I deal with these moments of uncertainty?

Reprinted with permission of Liguori Publications, Lager, MO 63057-9999. No other reproduction of this material is permitted.

## Masses

Sun.	7:30	Parish
	9:00	+Jeanne Fisher
	10:30	+Tom Evans & +Eugenia Gattas
	12:00	+Nancy Tooke
	6:00	+Joseph & +Marion Gatti
Mon.	6:15	+Marie Reynolds
	8:15	+Don Jordan
	12:00	Special Intention for Marilyn & Pepper Allen
Tues.	6:15	+Don Jordan
	8:15	Special Intention for Alley & Mary Riley
	12:00	+Ed Crenshaw & +Marilyn Mazzoni
Wed.	6:15	+Special Intention for Blondie Costello
	8:15	+Susan Laurenzi & + Agnes Hanson
	12:00	+Special Intention for Barbara Coon
Thurs.	6:15	+Katherine Joyce
	8:15	+John Fox, Sr.
	12:00	+Tara Faith Snider
Fri	6:15	+Eddie Patrick Cabrini
	8:15	+Debbie Brown Cumnock
	12:00	Special Intention for Coach Tom Nix's 90th Birthday
Sat.	6:15	+Walter Joyce
	8:15	Special Intention for Ginger & Grady Hurley
	4:30	+Richard W. Walpole

Prayers are requested for the sick: Jean Garbarini+Archbishop Peter Sartain+Peggy Steffan+Dr. Tucker Larkin+Deacon Ralph Donati+Bob Mader+Sarah Ward+Ann Berry+Mary Jane Miller+ Joyce West+Bernadette Pian+Rose Gaia+Archie Stewart+Michaela Dockery+Myrtle Kelly+Joyce Wilhelm+Dr. Santiago Vera.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Perrin Hall+James Heaton Creel.

## 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.

# December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Third Sunday of Advent

## ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** from 5-6pm.



## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



Photography will resume in January on our Parish Family Album. **January dates are now available!** We are publishing a new pictorial directory through Lifetouch. Reserve your appointment time by clicking the link on [stlouischurchmphps.org](http://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 19<sup>th</sup>**.



## 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.

## 20s & 30s GROUP

St. Louis' new 20's 30's Group is looking forward to hosting a Winter Social in January of 2017! If you are not already a part of the group, you should be! Simply send a text to 497-2237 with your name and email or send an email to [stlouis.youngadults@gmail.com](mailto:stlouis.youngadults@gmail.com). Be a part of something new and exciting while gaining fellowship and building a stronger faith together. Be on the lookout for our survey link that we are sending out this week!

## SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

The Second Collection on **Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, December 11<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—Saturday, 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—Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
9am, 10:30am & 12 noon  
**(No 6pm Mass Christmas night or New Year's Day)**  
Nursery not open Christmas Day

## FLEUR DE LIS



Merry Christmas everyone! Our last meeting for 2016 will be **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**! We'll meet at 6pm in the Clunan Center. Ham dinner from Leonard's will be served at 6:30pm. Our parish choir will join us for dinner and then sing us into the season after dinner. Please make a reservation by **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**. Call Rita Linder at 682-9734. Dinner is free for those who have paid dues and \$10 for those who have not. Please bring canned goods or donation for our St. Vincent de Paul chapter.



### 2017 CALENDARS

2017 Calendars are available in the Narthex. Please take one per family.



### 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 18<sup>th</sup>**. All gifts will be distributed by Catholic Charities.

### YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS



The Senior High Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Wear your best tacky Christmas sweater! Junior High will meet on **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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.

### SAVE THE DATE!

### MARDI GRAS DINNER & PARADE

The St. Louis Men's Club will sponsor the annual Mardi Gras Dinner and Parade on **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**. The theme will be "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Louis Parish and 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mardi Gras Dinner and Parade". Email Greg Crone for information at [croneg@bellsouth.net](mailto:croneg@bellsouth.net).

### SAVE THE DATE!

### MEN'S CLUB RETREAT

The Men's Club Retreat will be held on **February 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>** in Cullman, AL. Speaker is Msgr. Val Handwerker.

### Banns of Marriage

Banns of Marriage are announced for the third time for **Bramlett McLaurin** and **Austen Myers** and for the first time for **Charlotte Joure** and **Jordan Knight** and for the first time for **Cari Shoopman** and **Trey Tucker**.

### ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray for all bishops and leaders of the Church, that they listen to the cries of the poor.

### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Reading      Isaiah 7:10-14  
Psalm                Psalm 24  
Second Reading    Romans 1:1-7  
Gospel                Matthew 1:18-24

### 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 December 4, 2016

Total collection	<b>\$50,758</b>
Envelopes	\$38,514
Electronic	\$11,087
Loose	\$1,157
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	<b>1,805</b>
Donated by envelopes	422 families
Donated electronically	104 families
Non-participants	1,279 families
29% of families participated . . . 71% <b>did not</b>	

### 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 **Saturday, December 31, 2016**. 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.

### PRISON MINISTRY

Many thanks for all who helped in meeting our financial goal! 480 inmates wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## SAVE THE DATE: WMOS

Women's Morning of Spirituality will be held on **Saturday February 25<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 Reneé Hendrix. Witness Speaker is Kelli Williams. Music with Bethany and Kevin Paige. Register at [www.womensmorning.com](http://www.womensmorning.com).

## BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS



**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** 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.

## WOW—WOMEN OF THE WORD BIBLE STUDY

Please join us every Tuesday in the Clunan Center Meeting Room to discuss the Gospel of Matthew. 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.

## 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 5<sup>th</sup> floor will be held on **Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Check the sign up at [www.tinyurl.com/stlouissignup](http://www.tinyurl.com/stlouissignup) to volunteer.

## 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. **Adorers are needed for the 4am and 3pm slots on Mondays, 1am slot on Tuesdays, the 2am (shared time) and 5pm slots on Fridays, the 9pm slot on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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. Their Fig Tree program assists over 25,000 of our neighbors with emergency gifts of food, clothing and other essential needs. Please donate at [www.ccwn.org](http://www.ccwn.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](http://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-8<sup>th</sup> 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.

## JOIN THE CHOIR!

Contact Ray Mullins at

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



## 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.

## 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](http://www.cdom.org)), weekly online news in the West Tennessee Catholic, the diocesan calendar and Facebook – always with free access for you.

## ITALIAN WINTERFEST

Tickets are now on sale for the 7th Annual Italian Winterfest to be held **Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>** at the Racquet Club of Memphis at 5pm. Cuisine from 15 restaurants. Wine and soft drinks. Italian tableside music and dancing to all the greats! Bishop Emeritus Terry Steib and Mayor Jim Strickland will be honored. Tickets are \$45 per person or \$450 per table of 10 if purchased by **Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**. After that, tickets are \$50 per person and \$500 per table for 10. To reserve, contact Lisa Bell at 405-3791 or Janet Donato at 373-1221.

## 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.

## 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.

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

May you enjoy God's blessings during this Holy Season and throughout the New Year.

At Christmas time we purchase gifts for and send cards to our loved ones. It is also appropriate to remember our church with a special end-of-the-year donation. Your continued generosity is greatly appreciated.

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Hospitality Ministers are needed to serve all Christmas Masses on **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** and the Solemnity of Mary on **Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** and **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/slcminskd](http://www.tinyurl.com/slcminskd) to login and sign up for a slot. There will not be a 6pm Mass on Christmas or New Year's Day.

## ST. BENEDICT AT AUBURNDALE

SHOP, WRAP or RELAX – Lady Eagles basketball provides the child care, Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm. Filled with crafts, games & movies. \$15 per child for first 2. \$10 for additional children.

Come see and learn how SBA is your best value in Catholic high school education! Now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year! Tours and Shadow Days available throughout the year. [Sbaeagles.org/visistsba](http://Sbaeagles.org/visistsba)

## 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](mailto:jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org).

## PARISH CENSUS INFORMATION

In order to keep our parish rolls accurate, please notify Anna Shelton at [anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org](mailto:anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org) of any change of name, address, telephone number, or added family members. Also, if you are not receiving your church envelopes or Faith magazine, please let Anna know. Thank you!

## 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](mailto:deaconjeff@thecatholiccafe.com) or Anna Shelton at [anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org](mailto:anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org).