

Good News

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Today's Nativity scene shows the figures set in a golden, eternal background. Details are missing: no landscape, cave, stable, or cattle. Ghirlandaio, Michelangelo's teacher, focuses on the people. The Gospel also refrains from external details and focuses only on the main actors: Mary and Joseph and what is going on in their hearts and minds.

Joseph has to decide how to handle surprising news: His wife is with child and he isn't the father. She claims it was by divine intervention. He had every intention of protecting her while at the same time respecting the law. Luckily his open and honest heart hears indications from an angel. He is to do the unthinkable—take her to himself—because the unimaginable has happened: "It is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived" (Matthew 1:20).

The artist paints Joseph sleeping peacefully because he is the just man who silences his troubled heart in order to hear God's voice. He, like Mary, reflects on things profoundly and grapples with God's will and the amazing vocation placed before him. His struggle in prayer leads him to have faith and trust. Following God's plan will mean pilgrimage, thus the walking stick, water jug, and knapsack.

We are all tempted to flee from the challenges of discipleship. Yet today Joseph shows us how to "man up." He assumes his role as a servant leader, teacher, and example. His dozing is not one of laziness but of silent self-control that leads to attentiveness and obedience to God's voice.

For Reflection

Challenges are opportunities for growth. How do I face the challenges of following Jesus?

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Masses

Sun.	7:30	+June Green
	9:00	+Teresa Lucchesi Bounds & +Anne Marie Freres
	10:30	+Cliff Davis & +Jeanne Fisher
	12:00	+Peggy McCurdy
	6:00	Parish
Mon.	6:15	+Margie Ryan
	8:15	+Dr. Fox Miller & +Leo Toarmino
	12:00	Special Intention for Barbara Coon
Tues.	6:15	+Catherine Joyce
	8:15	+Don Jordan
	12:00	+William Huntington & +Michele Cortese
Wed.	6:15	+Catherine & +Anthony Cremerius
	8:15	+Secunda Mangialardi
	12:00	+Paul Saxon & +Robert Foery
Thurs.	6:15	+Luke & +Mary Borger
	8:15	Special Intention for Jane Riley
	12:00	+Chuck & +Charlie Gaia
Fri	6:15	+Tom Crenshaw & +Andrew Welsh
	8:15	+Pat Bramuchi
	12:00	+Emmett O'Ryan & +Raymundo Lopez

Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are for Priest Intentions

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+Forrest Jenkins.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Randy Gross.

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 18th, 2016—Fourth Sunday of Advent

ADVENT CONFESSIONS THIS WEEK

Confessions will be held on **Monday, December 19th** and **Thursday, December 22nd** from 5-6:30pm.



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 stlouischurchmphis.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**.

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.

BASKETBALL REGISTRATION GRADES 1-4



Deadline to register is **Friday, January 6th**. Parish Basketball is open to students who are parishioners and attend St. Louis School or PRE. Visit www.stlouismemphis.org to download registration form or pick one up in the church office.

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 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—Sunday, December 25th
9am, 10:30am & 12 noon
(No 6pm Mass Christmas night or New Year's Day)
Nursery not open Christmas Day

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Thank you to all our St. Louis parishioners for supporting your SVDP all year. Special thanks to Linda Clark for hosting our annual potluck dinner last week. We were blessed to have all 4 priests attend. We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! God bless!



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 18th (new date)**. The theme will be "Presidents" and "We are Family". Email Greg Crone for information at croseg@bellsouth.net.



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

The Men's Club Retreat will be held on **February 10th-12th** in Cullman, AL. Speaker is Msgr. Val Handwerker. Visit www.tinyurl.com/SLCMC2017 to reserve your room.

**THE DIOCESAN CELEBRATION
OF WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**



Married couples throughout the Diocese celebrating 25, 50 and 50 plus years of marriage in 2017 and their guests are invited to attend the

Diocesan Celebration of Wedding Anniversaries on **Saturday, February 4th** at 10am at St. Louis Church. Celebrant will be His Excellency, Most Reverend Martin D. Holley, D.D. Reception to follow at the Clunan Center. For more information, contact the Office of Pastoral Life at 373-1237 or register online under events

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 31st Vigil Mass qualify for the current year tax substantiation. Checks received in the **January 1st** collection, **regardless of the date on the check,** are posted to the new year. 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. Donations that are mailed must have a check date of December 31st or earlier **AND** the post mark on the envelope must be December 31st or earlier. Thank you for your cooperation.

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. 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.

St. Louis Cradle Roll



St. Louis Cradle Roll welcomes **Anna Claire Kitchens**, born November 10th, daughter of **Caroline and Brandon Kitchens**, granddaughter of **Charlene and Carter Myers** and **Camille Ann Canale**, born November 4th, daughter of **Meredith and Nick Canale**, granddaughter of **Camille and Mike Thompson**.

Banns of Marriage

Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for **Charlotte Joure** and **Jordan Knight** and for the second time for **Cari Shoopman** and **Trey Tucker**.

ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray for our 111 youth and 17 chaperones who are traveling this week to Winter Park, Colorado for the annual Youth Ministry Winter Retreat.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

The Nativity of the Lord

- First Reading Isaiah 52:7-10
- Psalm Psalm 98
- Second Reading Hebrews 1:1-6
- Gospel John 1:1-18

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, and Capt. Charlie Kennedy.

OFFERTORY REPORT

Week of December 11, 2016

Total collection	\$39,563
Envelopes	\$29,891
Electronic	\$8,401
Loose	\$1,271
Budget requirements	\$40,385
Total registered families	1,805
Donated by envelopes	394 families
Donated electronically	93 families
Non-participants	1,318 families
27% of families participated . . . 73% did not	

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.

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.

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 4am and 3pm slots 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. 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 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.

JOIN THE CHOIR!

Contact Ray Mullins at

rmullins@stlouismemphis.org



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.

CBHS 16th ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT EVENT

Please join CBHS and Br. Ignatius Brown, **Saturday, February 4th** at 6pm, for an evening of fun, laughter, and mental challenge! Proceeds benefit the tuition assistance program. Door prizes will be given throughout the evening and prizes will be awarded to winning teams. Contact Gina and Stuart McCown at stuartgina@comcast.net or you can download the registration form at www.cbhs.org under the "SUPPORTCBHS" tab. You'll find all the details on the registration form. Everyone has a great time at Trivia Night...don't miss it!



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.



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.



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.

ITALIAN WINTERFEST

Tickets are now on sale for the 7th Annual Italian Winterfest to be held **Sunday, January 15th** 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 31st**. 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.



MINISTRY TO THE SICK NEW MINISTER TRAINING



Ministry to the Sick Training will be held on **Saturday, January 21st** from 8:30am-1pm at the Catholic Center. This training is designed to provide new ministers with the basic tools that will be helpful in their ministry. As a trained minister you bring compassion, communion and become the sacramental presence of Christ for those sick and homebound. Candidates are required to send a completed registration form signed by the pastor or representative by **Wednesday, January 18th**. Registration forms are available in the parish office or at www.cdom.org. For more information call the Office of Pastoral Life Ministries at 373-1237 or email alma.abuelouf@cc.cdom.org.

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.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Hospitality Ministers are needed to serve all Christmas Masses on **Saturday, December 24th** and **Sunday, December 25th** and the Solemnity of Mary on **Saturday, December 31st** and **Sunday, January 1st**. Visit 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.

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.

ST. BENEDICT AT AUBURNDALE

SHOP, WRAP or RELAX – Lady Eagles basketball provides the child care, **Sunday, December 18th** 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

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.

PARISH CENSUS INFORMATION

In order to keep our parish rolls accurate, please notify Anna Shelton at anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org of any change of name, address, telephone number, or added family members. If you are not receiving your church envelopes or Faith magazine, let Anna know.

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. If you are interested in learning about the Catholic faith, please contact Deacon Jeff Drzycimski, at 682-6606 or deaconjeff@thecatholiccafe.com or Anna Shelton at anna.shelton@stlouis.cdom.org.