

## Good News

### Christmas

*Fr. Mark Haydu, LC*

This isn't a typical Christmas image, but stick with me! There is a renewed interest in genealogy as many seek to understand who and where they came from. These days, websites and genetic services make it easier than ever to track down our ancestry and examine our roots.

In tribal African art, one's ancestors have always been revered. In this piece from the Vatican Museums' missionary collection, we find the figure of a tribal leader, sculpted to resemble the trunk of an olive tree. The tree's veins are smaller individuals, each one united to another, representing the generations that have come before him and formed his bloodline. They are his "tree of life" that reaches back into the soil of history.

Judeo-Christian culture also values ancestors and highlights the roots of Jesus' heritage. The Messiah was to come from the line of David, which reaches back to Abraham, our father in faith. Behind each name there is a story, a family, God's action mingled with the person's hopes and failures. Each life flows and unites into one strong tree. And God watches over each and every one, preparing for the person of his Son. Today we celebrate the culmination of this plan. Jesus Christ, our Savior, is born today!

This protracted lineage invites us to look back and up: back on the events that have filled the tapestry of our personal and family history and up to see that God has brought us to know him and to accept his salvation. His providence works in and through it all.

#### *For Reflection*

Are you letting God work in you and your family so he can continue these blessings?

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## Masses

*Masses on Christmas Day are for Priest Intentions*

Mon.	6:15	Special Intention for the Albonetti Family
	8:15	+Emmett O'Ryan
	12:00	+Gene & +Angie Lucchesi
Tues.	6:15	+Mary Cortese Casey
	8:15	Special Intention
	12:00	+Benjamin Jennett
Wed.	6:15	+Bob Wade
	8:15	+Agnes Hanson
	12:00	+Chuck & +Charlie Gaia & +Walter Rentrop
Thurs.	6:15	+Walter Joyce
	8:15	+Violet Mangialardi & +Michael Heifet
	12:00	+Chris Mosby
Fri	6:15	+Emmett O'Ryan
	8:15	+John & +Winnie Mack
	12:00	+Josephine Hardebeck
Sat.	6:15	+Emmett O'Ryan
	8:15	+Robert Foery
	4:30	+Chris Mosby & +Angelo & +Cecilia Lucchesi

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+Joyce Wilhelm+Dr. Santiago Vera+Forrest Jenkins+Tristan Whittington

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Myrtle Kelly+Catherine Wallace+Ray Ricossa.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016—Christmas

### Merry Christmas!



Rev. Msgr. John B. McArthur  
Rev. William F. Burke  
Rev. Saji Ellickal  
Rev. Dexter Noblefranca

#### CONGRATULATIONS FR. SAJI ELLICKAL

Fr. Saji Ellickal is celebrating the 16<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood this **Tuesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**. A reception hosted by the Altar Guild will be held in his honor on **Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** following 8:15am Mass.

#### 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](http://stlouischurchmphis.org) or call 866-756-0281. Each family will receive a complimentary directory and 8x10 custom color portrait.

**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.

#### BASKETBALL REGISTRATION GRADES 1-4



Deadline to register is **Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**. Parish Basketball is open to students who are parishioners and attend St. Louis School or PRE. Visit [www.stlouismemphis.org](http://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.

#### SOLEMNITY OF MARY

The Solemnity of Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation. It falls on **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>** this year. Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 pm on **Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**, and at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am and 12pm on **Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**. *There will not be a 6pm Mass on New Year's Day.*

#### 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 18<sup>th</sup> (new date)**. The theme will be "Presidents" and "We are Family". 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. Visit [www.tinyurl.com/SLCMC2017](http://www.tinyurl.com/SLCMC2017) to reserve your room.

#### 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, **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 31<sup>st</sup> or earlier **AND** the post mark on the envelope must be December 31<sup>st</sup> or earlier. Thank you for your cooperation.



#### 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.

## YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will meet on **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. 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](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.



### 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.

### 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.



### 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, January 5<sup>th</sup>**. For more information contact Susan Smith at 755-9447.

### CBHS 16th ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT EVENT

Please join CBHS and Br. Ignatius Brown, **Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:stuartgina@comcast.net) or you can download the registration form at [www.cbhs.org](http://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!



## Banns of Marriage

Banns of Marriage are announced for the third time for **Charlotte Joure** and **Jordan Knight** and for the third time for **Cari Shoopman** and **Trey Tucker** and for the first time for **Dory Sellers** and **Greg Gaston**.

### ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

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

### NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

First Reading Numbers 6:22-27  
Psalm Psalm 67  
Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7  
Gospel Luke 2:16-21

### 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 Capt. Jay Schaffler.

### OFFERTORY REPORT

Week of December 18, 2016

Total collection	<b>\$68,420</b>
Envelopes	\$60,560
Electronic	\$6,729
Loose	\$1,131
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 . . . <b>71% did not</b>	

### 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.

### 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).