

# St. Richard Parish

11223 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146

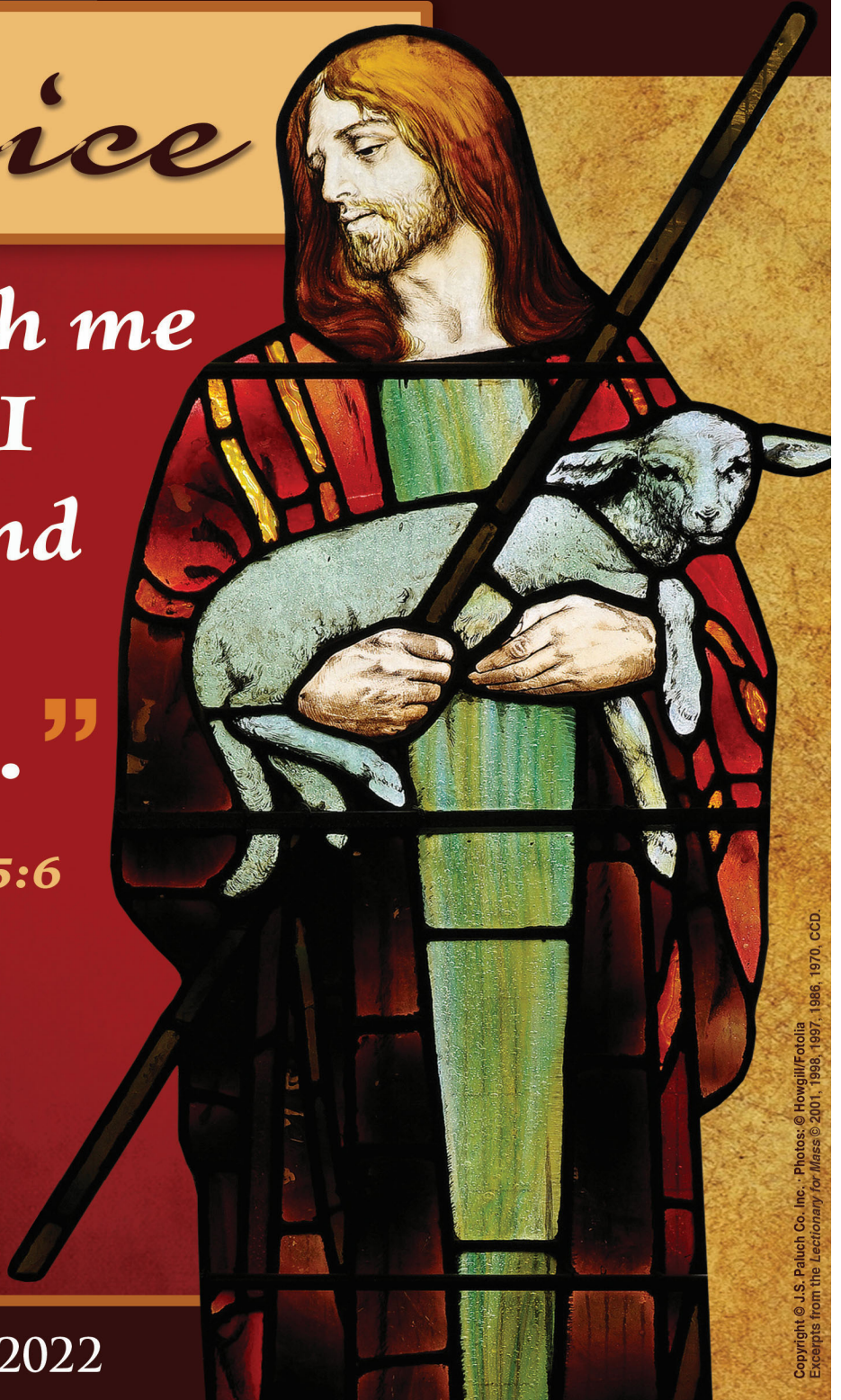
(314) 432-6224

[www.strichardstl.org](http://www.strichardstl.org)

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

*“Rejoice  
with me  
because I  
have found  
my lost  
sheep.”*

*Luke 15:6*



SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

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## OUR MISSION

*Know Him more clearly,  
Love Him more dearly, and  
Follow Him more nearly, day by day.*

### Parish Contact Information

The office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
You can contact the parish staff at  
314-432-6224 or [info@strichardstl.org](mailto:info@strichardstl.org).

### Parish Staff

Pastor	Rev. Gene Robertson Ext. 1015 <a href="mailto:grobertson@strichardstl.org">grobertson@strichardstl.org</a>
Deacon	John Bischof 569-3855 <a href="mailto:jbischof@strichardstl.org">jbischof@strichardstl.org</a>
Admin. Assistant	Kathy Reznikov Ext. 1003 <a href="mailto:info@strichardstl.org">info@strichardstl.org</a>
Business Manager	Mary Steingrubby Ext. 1002 <a href="mailto:msteingrubby@strichardstl.org">msteingrubby@strichardstl.org</a>
Music Director	Jim Randazzo <a href="mailto:jrandazzo@strichardstl.org">jrandazzo@strichardstl.org</a>
St. Richard Choir	Jim Randazzo
Emmaus Choir	Ruth Ferris 991-6854

**If someone is in danger of death and needs the sacrament, please call: 314-432-6224 Ext. 1016**

### Mass Schedule

Weekdays	8:15 a.m.
Saturday	5 p.m.
Sunday	9 a.m. 11 a.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday	3:45-4:15 p.m. Or by appointment
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### **BAPTISM**

Registered parishioners please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism and necessary preparations. For your first child, a Baptism Preparation Class must be completed. Baptisms are typically held after the Sunday 11 a.m. Mass.

### **MARRIAGE**

Couples planning marriage should contact the Parish Office **at least six months** in advance for proper procedures.

### **INTERESTED IN BEING A CATHOLIC?**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, program prepares all who wish to join the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

### **HOMEBOUND COMMUNION**

Contact the Parish Office to arrange a visit by the Pastor or an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

## LECTOR SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday, September 10</b> 5 p.m. Mary Claire Hachmeister	<b>Saturday, September 17</b> 5 p.m. Sherri Deighton
<b>Sunday, September 11</b> 9 a.m. Sandra Kardis 11 a.m. John Tucker	<b>Sunday, September 18</b> 9 a.m. Dave Peters 11 a.m. Lisa Sword
<b>Saturday, September 24</b> 5 p.m. Carol Underriner	<b>Saturday, October 1</b> 5 p.m. Gerald Chmielewski
<b>Sunday, September 25</b> 9 a.m. Joe DeLuca 11 a.m. Michelle Taylor	<b>Sunday, October 2</b> 9 a.m. Kaye Hartweger 11 a.m. Paul Wienke

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday, September 10</b> 5 p.m. Mary Claire Hachmeister Mimi Minner	<b>Saturday, September 17</b> 5 p.m. Tony Torkelson Jo Ann Morton
<b>Sunday, September 11</b> 9 a.m. Marty Reiter Peggy Thomeczek	<b>Sunday, September 18</b> 9 a.m. Karen Andrus Joe DeLuca
11 a.m. Paul Wienke Carol Underriner	11 a.m. Ted McCaskill Pam McCaskill
<b>Saturday, September 24</b> 5 p.m. Mimi Minner Doris Smith	<b>Saturday, October 1</b> 5 p.m. Joyce Todd Katharine Scott
<b>Sunday, September 25</b> 9 a.m. Karla Kutz Rebekkah Limpert	<b>Sunday, October 2</b> 9 a.m. Michelle Taylor Bryan Podkul
11 a.m. Oren Walton Sharon Serra	11 a.m. Linda Shead Dan Seidel

## ACTIVITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Liturgy Committee	Doris Smith	872-7823
Finance Committee	Rich Lewis	567-6860
Athletic Association	Bill Davidson	732-3814
Helping Hands	Kathy Peters	569-0678
Art & Environment	Kathy Engelbrecht	808-0307
Ladies' Club	Carolyn Sousa	489-2358
Leisure Club	Sharon Cusick	482-3317
Men's Club	Eric Vehige	640-0786
Prayer Chain	Mimi Minner	650-7893
SVDP Helpline	314-289-6101	Code 2292

**IF YOU VOLUNTEER AT ST. RICHARD, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER ON THE ARCHDIOCESE'S NEW SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE SITE.**

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called **Prevent and Protect STL**. Please register at:  
[www.preventandprotectstl.org](http://www.preventandprotectstl.org) (passcode: **stlprotect**)

Contact Kathy ([info@strichardstl.org](mailto:info@strichardstl.org)) with any questions. Thank you.



# PARISH CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 11

9 a.m. - Mass

11 a.m. - Mass

## Monday, September 12

8:15 a.m. - Mass

9 a.m. - Faith Share/Sacred Heart Room

7 p.m. - Rosary/Church

## Tuesday, September 13

8:15 a.m. - Mass/ followed by

Our Mother of Perpetual Help devotions  
7 p.m. - Lectio Divina/Sacred Heart Room

## Wednesday, September 14

8:15 a.m. - Mass

## Thursday, September 15

8:15 a.m. - Mass

7 p.m. - Men's Club/Pavilion  
(Sacred Heart Room if bad weather)

## Friday, September 16

8:15 a.m. - Mass

## Saturday, September 17

5 p.m. - Mass

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

All items must be submitted no later than  
2 p.m. on Tuesday for publication the  
following weekend, *unless otherwise noted.*

**September 18 bulletin      Deadline 9/13**

**September 25 bulletin      Deadline 9/20**

### The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



Jesus said to them,  
"Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep  
which was lost!" Luke 14:33

## Stewardship Reflection

- 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everything I have is yours."

~ Luke 15:31

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son, we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do you really want to turn your back on all that God offers in exchange for material wealth that has no lasting value? God wants us to be happy on earth as well. But, that requires us to freely accept His gift of faith; putting Him first in all things and detaching from our own self-sufficiency.



The six sons of Billie Hoelscher and their families, wish to thank the St. Richard Parish family for the love, prayers and support given to them the last month of Billie's life.

We extend a special thank you to Fr. Gene Robertson and Deacon John Bischof for their care and guidance with the Rosary and Mass.

Our appreciation to the choir, those who set up and cleaned up after the meal and those who provided and/or served the meal.

## Weekly Offering



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### Offertory for 9/4/2022

General Offering	\$ 3,324.00
Capital Improvement	95.00
Repair & Maintenance	300.00
St. Vincent de Paul	360.00
Other	55.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,134.00</b>
Online Giving (average est.)	\$ 4,200.00

## Make Giving Automatic

Consider enrolling in eGiving through Faith Direct. Visit: [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our church code: MO58. Please remember to enter your parish envelope number. If you don't have an envelope number, contact Kathy in the Parish Office for one.

Thank you for your continued support of our parish!



**Tomorrow is the last day to complete this survey.**

Please share your insights and thoughts so the Archdiocese knows how to meet the needs of our young adults.



**ALL THINGS NEW**  
STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

## YOUNG ADULT SURVEY

Young adults ages 18-39, single or married, with or without children are invited to take the young adult survey. Take this opportunity to inform the church in St. Louis about your experience, hopes and needs!

**Submit by Monday,  
September 12, 2022**

Scan the QR code to take the survey



Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to "Go and Make Disciples of all Nations," strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

## St. Louis Catholic High School Nights

If you have students in grades 5-8, you are invited to the annual Archdiocesan High School Nights. These evenings will include a Welcome Fair from 6-7 p.m. where you can stop by school tables to get general information about our various Catholic High Schools. From 7-8 p.m., you can attend three 15-minute school presentations of your choice.

- ♦ **September 13 - St. Joseph Academy**  
2307 S. Lindbergh Boulevard, 63131
- ♦ **September 22 - Incarnate Word Academy**  
2788 Normandy Avenue, 63121
- ♦ **September 27 - St. Dominic High School**  
31 St. Dominic Drive, 63366
- ♦ **October 3 - St. Louis University High School**  
4970 Oakland Avenue, 63110
- ♦ **October 12 - St. John Vianney High School**  
1311 S. Kirkwood Road, 63122

You may attend any night.  
Registration is not necessary.



Join us for coffee, juice and donuts  
in O'Brien Hall NEXT SUNDAY  
(September 18) after each Mass.

**"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."**  
~ Mt. 25:35

Come and feed His people!  
Members of the St. Vincent de  
Paul (SVDP) Casserole  
Program will be serving meals  
on Saturday, September 24.



If you would like to help, or want to learn more  
about this program, contact:

Jane (314-993-6134) or  
Mary Lou (314-432-2741)



# Ladies' Club Bunco

September 22nd at 7:00 p.m.  
in O'Brien Hall

Join us to play

## Bunco

an easy-to-learn,  
fast-paced dice game!

### Two Ways to Register!

Call/Text Carolyn at  
314-489-2358

OR Visit

<https://bit.ly/Bunco-0922>



### Thank you for being a Sock Angel!

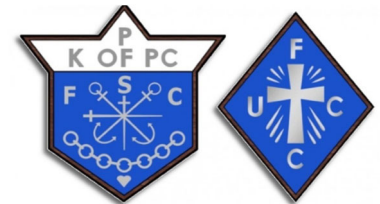
Your initial response to participating in this year's Sock Angel campaign has been wonderful!

As of Sunday, September 4, we have collected **2,700** pairs of socks!

The folks at St. Patrick's Center & Sts. Peter and Paul tell us **there are never enough socks**. Men, women, teens and children are all in need of socks, so when you're out shopping in the coming weeks, please add some socks to your cart. Every pair helps someone in need.

For more information about the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver (the Sock Angel organizers) and this campaign, please visit

[www.SockAngel.org](http://www.SockAngel.org)



### What is White Elephant Bingo?

Members of the Leisure Club will be playing White Elephant Bingo on Tuesday, September 20 and you're invited to join in the fun!

Bring a wrapped item for the game. If you are unable to bring a wrapped item, you can still play for a small contribution of \$2.00. Winners during the various bingo games will be able to select a gift from the mystery items. Leftover items and any cash paid will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul.

Please join us on September 12 at 11 a.m. in the Sacred Heart Room for comradery, cake and coffee. We guarantee a good time will be had by all!

Any questions, please call Sharon Cusick (314-482-3317).

### You can make a difference in the Holy Land

Many Christian artisans have been forced to leave the Holy Land due to hostilities and COVID which have decreased the number of tourists to the area and closed shops selling hand-carved, religious olive wood items.

On the weekend of October 1-2, a Catholic couple from the Holy Land will be visiting with many of these religious articles made by the Christian artisans. All proceeds go directly to the Christian artisans. This funding will help strengthen the Christian presence in the city of Bethlehem and the surrounding areas.

All types of unique olive wood religious art works will be available, such as nativity scenes, crucifixes, figures, rosaries. These crafts make wonderful presents for all occasions, especially for Christmas. Prices range from \$5 to \$900. Checks and credit card are welcome.

Please take the opportunity to check out these unique crafts. Your purchases will assist our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

# Know Him More Clearly

## Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer - Twenty-fourth Week of Ordinary Time

The grace of our Lord is



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A God's loving mercy and forgiveness to us is the central message in Luke's Gospel for the Twenty-fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Knowing that His audience includes not only the sinners but also the judgmental religious leaders, Jesus offers three parables about

mercy, ending with the powerful story of the Prodigal Son. The father says to the jealous older son, "You are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

Tuesday is the Memorial of Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Wednesday has its own readings with the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Thursday is the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows and Friday the Memorial of Saints Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs.

In our first reading, Paul's wonderful First Letter to the Corinthians continues to feed us with powerful messages about good community behavior, the Eucharist and the mystery of the Resurrection.

We experience more of the beauty of Luke's Gospel this week. Jesus heals the slave of a Roman officer, praising the officer's faith. He encounters a widow whose only son had died. "He was moved with pity" and raises the son from the dead. Jesus tells the people how inconsistent their responses are. At a dinner, Jesus encounters a weeping, sinful woman who washes His feet with her tears. "So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love." We hear that Jesus is accompanied by a group of women "who provided for them out of their resources." Jesus tells the parable of the sower to a large crowd of listeners, and breaks it open for His disciples.

On the Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Jesus tells the parable of the unjust steward who finds out he's been caught squandering his master's property, and goes out and makes deals to make friends for the future. Jesus acknowledges his prudence and calls us to have, at the very least, prudence about our future. "If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?"

## Daily Prayer This Week

This is a good week to imagine how much we are like Jesus' disciples. We clearly want to be His followers, and we do follow Him. The humbling reality is that we are inconsistent. At the very time that Jesus is telling us that He wants us to find ourselves by losing ourselves, we are too often being competitive and trying to be on top somehow. Fortunately, He keeps telling us about the real meaning of discipleship. Paul lays it all out in this week's first readings. The parable of the sower is quite helpful this week. How healthy and rich is the soil of our own souls? Can we feel the longing we have to make our hearts more receptive to the message of Jesus?

Each morning, as soon as we can after waking up, perhaps associated with some automatic behavior like putting on slippers or a robe or getting a cup of coffee, we begin the day in the presence of our Lord. We can get into the habit of greeting our Lord, "Good morning, Lord. Thank you for this day." Even if we didn't have a good night's sleep and we are waking up fairly tired, this habit can become part of our routine. Naming our desire for the day can become the way we begin our day with the Lord. Repeating it, with more details, as we encounter the people and responsibilities of our day, will deepen our relationship with the Lord. Brief "prayers" (which are really just conversations) sustain the connection all day.

In one circumstance this week, I might say, "*Lord, here I am being that very hard ground. Please get through to me in the part of me that is still 'receptive soil.'*" Another day, I might catch myself trying to make myself look good and I can say, "*Dear Jesus, your reminder helps me right here. Let me be a servant in this situation, with these people - forgiving, listening, compassion and freer.*" Sometime this week we might encounter someone who needs us to be like Jesus - healing something that is broken, or even dead and we can say, "*Lord, let me do your will, imitate your faith in God here. Thank you for being with me.*"

*Taken from 'Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer' on the  
Creighton University's Online Ministries website:  
<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>  
Used with permission.*

# Love Him More Dearly

## DAILY MASS READINGS

### Sunday, September 11

Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19; 1 Tm 1:12-17;  
Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]

### Monday, September 12

1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Lk 7:1-10

### Tuesday, September 13

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1-5; Lk 7:11-17

### Wednesday, September 14

Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

### Thursday, September 15

1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28;  
Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

### Friday, September 16

1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3

### Saturday, September 17

1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15

## September 11th

Take a moment today to REMEMBER:  
Lives lost at each of the crash sites,  
as well as all the first responders.

Pray for Peace!



### Adoration - Community - Theology - Service

The next Men's ACTS Retreat, "*O Lord, Attend to My Cry*," will be November 4-6. The retreat runs from Thursday evening through Sunday morning Mass. Participants will leave and return from St.

Richard. Registration brochures are in the vestibule. Registration deadline is Monday, October 31. Contact Pat Cannon ([cannonstlouis@aol.com](mailto:cannonstlouis@aol.com)) for more information.

The next Women's ACTS Retreat will be July 20-23, 2023. Contact Anne Sommer ([annesommer@earthlink.net](mailto:annesommer@earthlink.net)) for mor information.

## The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We invite any adult who would like to join the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and/or Eucharist, or any Catholic who has yet to be Confirmed, to please contact the Parish Office soon (314-432-6224/ [info@strichardstl.org](mailto:info@strichardstl.org)). We are in the process of forming the next RCIA class.

In addition, we are looking for interested parishioners to be on the RCIA Team to accompany the catechumens and candidates on their journey to Easter. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested.



Christian Initiation

### Looking for a job?

Area employers occasionally send us information about job openings. For example, two not-for-profits are looking for office support. One is a FT position as an Administrative Assistant, and the other is a PT position as a Finance and Office Assistant.

Contact the Parish Office to learn more.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter has TWO remaining **IN-PERSON** weekend experiences for 2022!

9/30-10/2 - Courtyard Marriott, St. Peters, MO  
12/2-4 - Courtyard Marriott, St. Peters, MO

Sign-up now! We'll have all necessary precautions in place to provide a safe environment. To apply, or for more information, go to [wwme.org](http://wwme.org), or call Terry & Eric Engholm (314-649-7317).

saint snippets



Whoever finds God  
finds everything,  
whoever loses God  
loses everything.

**St. Robert Bellarmine**

17th-century Italian Jesuit professor and cardinal. Robert was a pivotal figure in the Counter-Reformation, and he is listed as one of the Doctors of the Church.

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September 17



**Please remember in your prayers:**

Anna Angert	Patricia Kelley	Jonathon Penne
Mary Beekman	Cathryn Kinamore	Florence Rahubka
Jane Concannon	John Klein	Thomas Reuther
Pat Corkery	Milton Kupferer	Bernard Ruthmeyer
Patricia Daher	John McCormick	Denise Sahrman
Joe DeLuca	Dorothy Meyer	Jerry Saxe
Betty Eise	Cheli Ohms Mosby	Gloria Smythe
Patricia Filko	Jennifer Mosier	Eileen Thomson
Marie Graves	Patrick Nickens	Mike Underriner
Jerry Huelsman	Jean O'Keefe	Phyllis Walsh
Toni Jodlowski	Betty Penn	Terri Wienke

To add or remove a name from this listing,  
please contact the **Parish Office** at **432-6224**.

If you would like to add or remove a name from the  
Prayer Chain, please contact **Mimi Minner** at **650-7893**.

**O Prince of Peace, humbly we ask your protection for all  
the men and women in service of our country.**

**CAPT David Butz**  
Fort Bliss, TX  
Grandson-in-law of Fran  
Waelterman

**SGT Thomas M. Euson**  
Camp LeJeune, NC  
Great Nephew of Neil &  
Paulette Byrne

**1LT Anna Ferris RN**  
Fort Bliss, TX  
Granddaughter of Fran  
Waelterman

**CAPT John Andrew Floro**  
Scott AFB, IL  
Nephew of Marcella & Deacon  
Del Leonardo

**L CPL John M. Geringer**  
Camp Pendleton, CA  
Grandson of Ceil Geringer

**LT COL Christopher Higgins**  
Eielson AFB, AK  
Nephew of Robert & Paula  
Brose

**CW3 Erick Knarzer**  
Afghanistan  
Nephew of Jean O'Keefe

**SGT Matthew Mansfield**  
Joint Base, Andrews, MD  
Son of John & Jane  
Mansfield

**SGT Joe Meadows**  
Fort Bragg, NC  
**SGT Sam Meadows**  
Fort Bragg, NC  
Sons of Doug & Karen  
Meadows

**2LT Brittany Menzenwerth**  
Reserve Center,  
Grand Prairie, TX  
Daughter of Laura  
Menzenwerth

**MJR Michael Mulligan, Jr.**  
Ft. Irwin, CA  
Nephew of Kathy Soucy

**CAPT Matthew Primm**  
AFB Kuwait  
Grandson-in-law of Marie  
Everhardt

**SSgt Eric Reuther**  
Ft. Gordon, GA  
Son of Deacon Ron & Cathy  
Reuther

**LT COL Mark Scherrer**  
Travis AFB, CA  
Son of Marilyn Scherrer

**TSgt Kendall Washington**  
Hurlburt Field, FL  
Son-in-Law of Laura  
Menzenwerth

**SSgt Tyler White**  
Eglin AFB, FL  
**SRA Randi White**  
Eglin AFB, FL  
Nephew & Niece of Mark &  
Lynn Pfotenhauer

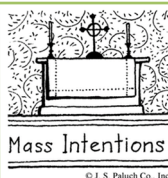


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**Mass Intentions**

Sat., September 10	5 p.m.	Averill Williams+
Sun., September 11	9 a.m.	Jo Ann Baehr+
	11 a.m.	People of St. Richard
Mon., September 12	8:15 a.m.	Billie Hoelscher+
Tues., September 13	8:15 a.m.	Georgiann Donovan+
Wed., September 14	8:15 a.m.	Robert King+
Thurs., September 15	8:15 a.m.	Purgatorial Society+
Fri., September 16	8:15 a.m.	Ivy King+

+ Indicates an individual is deceased



**Remember your family and friends**

As Catholics, we have a tradition of  
praying for the souls of family and friends  
who have died, for those who are living  
and facing challenges, and in  
thanksgiving for all the good God has done for us.

One special way to do this is to have a Mass said for that  
intention. Please contact the Parish Office if you would  
like to schedule a Mass intention.

- VISUAL ART
- LIVE MUSIC
- FOOD
- KIDS CRAFTS
- FELLOWSHIP

CatholicArtFest.com

**Celebrate the gift of creativity in our Church!**

**OCTOBER 1, 2022, 10AM - 4PM**

**EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD PARISH FIELD**

Visit our website to find out more about  
the kids crafts schedule, artists & musicians!



CRAFTERS, ARTISTS, & VENDORS NEEDED FOR THE

**St. Richard  
Holiday Boutique**

You are invited to register to sell your crafts, art,  
& other wares at this annual event on

**Saturday, November 5th**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Please register online at:

<https://bit.ly/2022-STR-HB>.

Registration Form is due by October 14th.

QUESTIONS CAN BE DIRECTED TO CAROLYN SOUSA  
EMAIL: STRLADIESCLUB@GMAIL.COM  
CALL/TEXT: 314-489-2358



# Follow Him More Nearly



September  
**11**  
2022

**"REJOICE WITH ME  
BECAUSE I HAVE  
FOUND MY LOST SHEEP."**

LUKE 15:6

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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In the seventies there was a popular Folk Mass song by Joe Wise, "Take All the Lost Home." It is like our Gospel reading today. For truly, we've all had moments when we have lost our way and needed others to get us back on track. Perhaps this means reconnecting with someone we once knew and making amends, or seeing a therapist to make things right. Maybe it means finally seeking help to stick with the diet and exercise plan, or joining a 12-step program to deal with an addiction. Could it be time to meet with a financial expert to manage credit card debt, or go to confession or meet with a spiritual director to find your way home spiritually? It is hard to ask for help or admit we are lost. We dread the reactions of others, thinking they will be angry, hurt, or defensive. We feel shame. Sometimes people hold grudges for years because neither they nor another will break down and make the first move. We feel fear. This sets us up for the classic story of the prodigal father, where we see two possible outcomes.

### WELCOME HOME

The son returns home and, expecting the worst, confesses his sinfulness. His brother has an angry, self-righteous response, but the Father is full of joy and mercy. Such is the case in all the Gospel parables today. We hear God say, "You are the one who is important." There is another poignant song by Brian Flynn entitled "The Prodigal Father" that presents the perspective of the parent waiting and worrying about their lost child, watching the road and praying for the child's return. And if for some reason your own family will not accept you, you will find that there are many intentional families, friends, and parishes waiting with open arms to welcome you. Or perhaps you can offer the same welcome to another returning soul.

Today's Readings: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19;  
1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]

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YOU KNOW, SOME PEOPLE  
ARE OFFENDED BY GOD'S  
LAVISH GENEROSITY.



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OH, I DON'T HAVE A  
PROBLEM WITH THAT.



AS LONG AS I GET  
MY FAIR SHARE.



LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

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