

I AM 'THE VOICE OF ONE
CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT,
"MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY
OF THE LORD"' JOHN 1:23

St. Louis Catholic Church

NEW SEATING ARRANGEMENT IN CHURCH

After careful study and evaluation with our Hospitality Ministers and to help with seating, we are implementing a new seating arrangement in the Church for all Masses except for 7:30 am.

- Hospitality Ministers will rope off pews in the back on the Mary side.
- These pews will be opened for seating when the Penitential Rite begins.
- The last pew on the Mary side will be reserved for parents with small children.

We realize this may be challenging and uncomfortable for some, but we ask that you keep an open mind as we try to improve participation in the Mass for all who are attending. It is disruptive for all when people are seated at the front of the church after Mass begins.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Monday-Friday: 6:15 am, 8:15 am & 12:00 pm

Saturday: 6:15 am, 8:15 am

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday: 3:30-4:30 pm

Sunday: 30 minutes prior to Mass

1st Friday: after 6:15 am & 12:00 pm Masses

1st Saturday: after 6:15 am & 8:15 am Masses

Good News

Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Why go into the desert and cry out? The voice in the desert is lonesome, heard only by those who go there to listen. Let's leave our routines, go into the spiritual deserts of our hearts, and listen today.

The words of preparation John preaches are joyful. Why? First, to be told you are on the wrong path is good news. Have you ever followed your GPS to the wrong place because of an address typo? "It would have been nice to know this before I traveled across town to the wrong place," you thought.

Second, it is joyful to be told what makes your beloved happy, because you then know what will please him or her.

Good news! John's preaching points us to our destination in Jesus and to what makes him happy.

The rose vestments worn by our priests today symbolize that joy. Notice in the painting of Isaiah, he is wearing that color, too.

Another interesting detail is that Isaiah is holding his finger in the book while looking back at a young cherub, who in turn points to his neighbor. Isaiah's finger is in the Gospels, where he is the most quoted prophet of the Old Testament. Jesus reads from the prophet Isaiah, and John the Baptist quotes Isaiah's prophesy about "the voice crying out in the desert."

Perhaps the cherub behind Isaiah is John the Baptist. And perhaps the barely visible baby to whom the little John the Baptist is pointing represents Christ, the reason for our joy.

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Parish & School Staff

Rev. Jolly Sebastian, M.C.B.S., Pastor
Rev. William F. Burke, Associate Pastor
Rev. Ruben Rivera, Associate Pastor
Deacon Jeff Drzycimski
Deacon Mike D'Addabbo

Deacon Ralph W. Donati, Deacon Emeritus
Sr. Ancilia Indrati, C.B., Director of Religious Education
Ronald Pierotti, Business Manager
Jan O'Donnell, Administrative Assistant to Fr. Jolly Sebastian
Anna Shelton, Accounts Receivable & Tuition Administrator
Albert A. Burk, Jr., Choir Director
Ray Mullins, Choir Director

Libba Nance, Wedding Coordinator
Jana Soefker, Nursery Director
Paul Walker, Director of Youth Ministry
Hannah Hill, Associate Director of Youth Ministry
Pat Ellis, Receptionist
Andrew Clark, Receptionist
Jim Clark, Evening Receptionist
Teddi L. Niedzwiedz, School Principal
Vickie Shaw, School Assistant Principal
Kim Pesce, School Director of Admissions
Michael W. Bennett, Athletic Director

Parish Information

Sacrament of Baptism—Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Families need to be registered, contributing parishioners for three months prior to the baptism. 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 deaconjeff@thecatholiccafe.com or 260-2888 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, 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.

Nursery—a nursery is provided in the Clunan Center each weekend at 9:00 am and 10:30 am Masses on Sundays.

Parish Mission Statement

We the people of St. Louis Parish, in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, nurtured by the Eucharist, strive to be the body of Christ to all God's people. We are committed to a culture of life through worship, prayer, life-long evangelization and development of youth, and we desire to live out the Gospel mandate to love God and our neighbors as ourselves.

Events This Week

Sunday	Parish Religious Education Class at 9 am in the school Coffee & Donuts in Clunan Center Hall following morning Masses Charismatic Group in Meeting Room at 7:30 pm
Tuesday	WOW--Women of the Word in Meeting Room St. Leo's Lunch at 11:30 in Clunan Center Scouts in Scout Room at 6 pm RCIA in Clunan Center at 7 pm
Wednesday	Room in the Inn St. Louis Catholic School Christmas Break Begins
Thursday	Fleur de Lis Christmas Dinner & Sing-a-Long at 6 pm in the Clunan Center
Friday	Praise & Worship Group in Choir Room at 11 am Church Office closes at 12 pm

Church Office Hours for Christmas & New Year's Holidays

Friday, December 22	8 am—12 pm
Saturday, December 23	9 am—6 pm
Sunday, December 24	9 am—1 pm
Monday, December 25-Friday, December 29	Closed
Saturday, December 30	9 am—6 pm
Sunday, December 31	9 am—1 pm
Monday, January 1	Closed

OFFERTORY REPORT

Immaculate Conception—\$5,296
 Week of December 10, 2017
 Collection—\$47,895
 Retirement Fund for Religious—\$6,044

Mass Intentions

Sat	6:15	+Gerald Gaia
	8:15	+Nichole Fortune Thompson
	4:30	+Jim Bedwell
Sun	7:30	+Joe Bursi
	9:00	Parish
	10:30	+Richard W. Walpole
	12:00	+Adella Palazola
	6:00	+June Green
Mon	6:15	Special Intention for John B. Trouy
	8:15	Special Intention for Johnny & Amanda Gorman & for +Aurora Mangahas
	12:00	+Hank Cowles
Tue	6:15	Special Intention for Tommy & Winnie Ann Gorman
	8:15	+Margaret Roberson
	12:00	+Cecelia Presley
Wed	6:15	+Jack Blake
	8:15	+Perry Norman
	12:00	+Paul Saxon
Thur	6:15	Poor Souls in Purgatory
	8:15	+Segunda Mangialardi
	12:00	+Boone Pendergrast
Fri	6:15	+Anthony & +Catherine Cremerius
	8:15	+Perry Norman
	12:00	+William Huntington

Prayers are requested for the sick: Luke
Drewry+Debbie Orians+Mary Houston Lorino+Joy
Wills.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of Joy
Werner.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Mary of Nazareth

Who was Mary, Mother of the Messiah?

Experience life with Christ through the eyes of his mother in this beautiful film capturing Mary's special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Jesus, and the mysterious joys and sufferings she encountered with deep love, profound humility, and unwavering faith.



St. Louis Parish
 Access Code:
PTQN96

Watch on formed.org

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24th

Sunday Mass: 7:30 am, 9 am, 10:30 am, 12 pm

Nursery closed

Christmas Eve Masses: 4:30 pm (Church & gym),
6:30 pm & Midnight Mass

Nursery at 4:30 pm Mass only

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day Masses: 9 am, 10:30 am & 12 pm
(No 6pm Mass Christmas night)

Advent Confession Schedule

Wednesday, December 20th—12:30-1:30 pm

Thursday, December 21st—5-6 pm

Saturday, December 23rd—3-4:30 pm (2 priests)

Sunday, December 24th—7-7:30 am, 8:30-9 am,
10-10:30 am, 11:30-12 pm

No Confessions before Christmas Masses



Christmas Sing-Along

FLEUR DE LIS

Fleur de Lis meets next on **Thursday, December 21st** in the Clunan Center. The St Louis Choir will be joining us for dinner and a Christmas sing-a-long. We begin at 6 pm with social time and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Leonard's will be catering a traditional ham dinner for us. All paid members eat free, as do our guests in the choir. We gathered some canned goods for Thanksgiving last month. Let's do it again for Christmas. So please bring some non perishable food items for our St Vincent de Paul.

GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS MASSES 2017

The 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve and Christmas falls on a Monday. So, how do I fulfill my obligation to attend Mass?



GO TO MASS TWICE

To fulfill both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Mass obligations, you must go to two different Masses.



PICK ONE MASS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Attend Mass on Saturday evening or on Sunday at any time.



PICK ONE MASS FOR CHRISTMAS

Attend Mass on Sunday evening or on Monday at any time.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY

The Solemnity of Mary on **Monday, January 1st** is a not a Holy Day of Obligation this year. There will not be a Vigil Mass. Mass will be celebrated at 6:15 am, 8:15 am and 12 pm on **Monday, January 1st**.

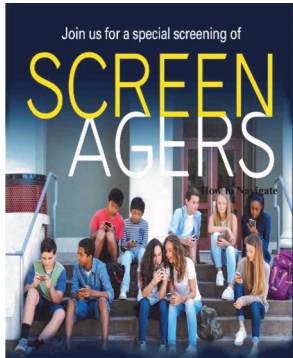
TRAVELING CRUCIFIX PROGRAM FOR VOCATIONS AT ST. LOUIS PARISH

If you would like to pray for vocations in our parish and diocese, consider taking home the traveling crucifix for a week. We are asking for an increase in those who are called, for those discerning, for those who have accepted the call, and for strengthening for those who have already entered priestly or religious life. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Alex Gray at grayp1970@yahoo.com.



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 18th.**



CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF MEMPHIS PRESENTS: "SCREENAGERS"

A Video Presentation & Discussion

How do boys and girls differ in their application uses?

- Are violent video games desensitizing?
- How does time on cell phones affect social development?
- What about brain research findings?
- What device guidelines should schools consider?
- What device guidelines should you consider at home?

Tuesday, January 9th at 7 pm in the Clunan Center. RSVP 609-4262 (text or call). Limited Seating for Adults, Young Adults, Teenagers.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

If you or a loved one is hospitalized or homebound and would like a visit from a priest or Minister of the Sick, contact the church office at 255-1950. Lay ministers are available to visit and bring Communion and prayer to individual homes, hospitals or nursing home facilities.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

SVDP was able to help 19 families in the month of November. We purchased turkeys to give away for Thanksgiving baskets, we helped 1 family with moving expenses, 1 with plumbing issues, 7 families with MLGW bills, and 10 families with rent. Thank you so much for your generosity!



CONGRATULATIONS FR. JOLLY

Fr. Jolly Sebastian is celebrating the Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on **Monday, January 1st.** A reception hosted by the Altar Guild will be held in his honor on Monday, January 1st in the Clunan Center following 12 pm Mass.

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Calling all Catholics to love and adore our Lord: Adorers are needed for the Bread of Life Adoration Chapel. The following days and times have special need for you: Sunday 2-3 pm and Saturday 3 am-4 am. If you would like to become an Adorer we would also be glad to have you other days and times. Please contact Joan Thomas at thomas.joan6@gmail.com or 481-1274.

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 3rd.** Email Greg Crone for information at croneg@bellsouth.net.

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. Catholic Charities of West Tennessee works with Veterans, the homeless, newcomers to our country, at-risk children, the hungry, the naked and shut-ins. Please donate at ccwtn.org

PRISON MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Prison Ministry Christmas project. 80 new inmates came in this week so we are about \$500 short of funds needed. Donations are still being accepted.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Banns of Marriage are announced for the second time for **Maggie Pohlman and Colin Green.**



What is a prayer chain?

God hears and answers all prayers. A parish prayer chain is a group of parishioners who, on request, will pray for any of our brothers or sisters who are in need. The need could be illness, grieving due to the loss of loved ones, unemployment, addiction, etc.

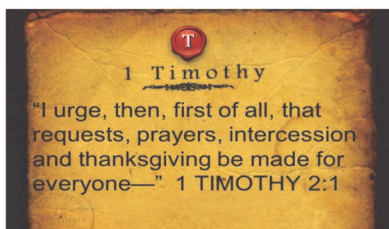
What is requested of prayer chain volunteers? To pray for the requests of St. Louis Church parishioners. Volunteers need to regularly monitor their personal email accounts for timely prayer requests. This information passed along must be kept private and absolutely confidential. Requests will be sent once a week in a group email unless the prayer request is for a timely or urgent matter.

How will prayer requests be submitted? Through the church website or church office.

What is the time commitment? Prayer chain members should be able to set aside time to pray daily for the prayer chain requests. Members pray individually for each prayer request. Other than the informational kickoff breakfast, there are no meetings to attend, which makes this a wonderful opportunity for those who otherwise would be unable to participate in a ministry.

How do I volunteer to be a part of this prayer team? Simply email prayerchain@stlouismemphis.org and provide your name and email address. You will then be contacted as to the date of the brief kick-off breakfast meeting in January.

It is a great blessing for those praying to have a daily time of communion with God. There is a transformative power for those who pray and for the people for whom we pray. It means so much to so many. Please consider joining this powerful ministry.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

According to IRS regulations, for the Church to post donations that qualify for your 2017 tax substantiation, your donation must be in the Church office or offertory basket by **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. Donations received after December 31st will be posted to 2018. Thank you.

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. Please give generously.



ROOM IN THE INN

The next St. Louis Room in the Inn will be held on **Wednesday, December 20th**.

Signup: tinyurl.com/slcriti17-18new

For information, call Pam Scarbrough at 896-8278 or Ann Drennan at 674-2117.

SAVE THE DATE!

MEN'S CLUB RETREAT

The Men's Club Retreat will be held on **February 16th-18th** in Cullman, AL.

SUNDAY HOMILIES

Sunday Homilies of Fr. Jolly and Fr. Ruben are available on the church website at stlouischurchmphis.org. If you are not able to download them from the website and would like to receive them via email, send an email Jan O'Donnell at jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org or call the church office at 255-1950. If you would prefer a paper copy, stop in the church office and the front desk staff will print out a copy for you.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS NEEDED

Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Hospitality Ministers are needed to serve all Christmas Masses on **Sunday, December 24th** and **Monday, December 25th**. Visit www.tinyurl.com/slcminskd to login and sign up for a slot. There will not be a 6pm Mass on Christmas Day.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Altar Guild Potluck Christmas Party

Ladies of the parish enjoyed the Christmas Potluck Dinner Meeting at the Rectory on **Tuesday, December 5th**. Speakers from Catholic Charities spoke about their "Gifts for God's Children" program. Past presidents were recognized and Fr. Jolly led the ladies in prayer.

