

# SAINT ATHANASIUS

## CATHOLIC CHURCH



**OUR MISSION IS THE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST • FEEDING • HEALING • SHEPHERDING**

### THE HOLY FAMILY OF *Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

*The child  
grew and  
became strong,  
filled with  
wisdom; and  
the favor  
of God  
was upon him.*

*Luke 2:40*

*El niño crecía  
y se desarrollaba  
lento de sabiduría,  
y la gracia de  
Dios permanecía  
con él.*

*Lucas 2, 40*

### LA SAGRADA FAMILIA DE *Jesús, María & José*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2024**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF  
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, December 28—The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

4:00 p.m. In Memory of Doris Burns and Family, and  
In Memory of Barbara Krueger

**Sunday, December 29—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

8:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish

11:00 a.m. In Memory of Tomko's Family, and  
In Memory of Deceased Members  
of the Boone and Poole Families

**Monday, December 30**

8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

**Tuesday, December 31—Saint Sylvester I, Pope**

12:00 p.m. In Memory of Joseph S & Rose E Marirea  
and Family

**Wednesday, January 1—Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

10:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

6:30 p.m. For the People of the Parish

**Thursday, January 2—Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen,  
Bishops and Doctors of the Church**

8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

**Friday, January 3—Holy Name of Jesus**

8:00 a.m. In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

#### IN THE BULLETIN:

Mass Intentions	pg. 1
Highlight Moments	pg. 2
This Week in Our Parish	pg. 3
Eucharistic Adoration Blessing	pg. 3
Parish Office Hours	pg. 3
Solemnity of Mary	pg. 3

9:00 A.M. Mass- January 4, 2025	pg. 3
Ask Father Q & A Column	pg. 4
Discover St. Athanasius School	pg. 5
CEF Tuition Assistance	pg. 5
Prayer List—Please Pray For	pg. 6
Communion to the Homebound	pg. 6
EM, Lector, and Hospitality Schedule	pg. 6

Receiving the Sacraments	pg. 6
Stewardship Reflection	pg. 7
Weekly Gifts	pg. 7
Pastoral Staff	pg. 7
Next Week Readings	pg. 7
Sponsor of the Week	pg. 7
Catholic Services Appeal	pg. 7

5915 Outer Loop | Louisville, Kentucky 40219 | Phone: 502.969.3332 | [www.stathanasiuslouisville.com](http://www.stathanasiuslouisville.com)



# HIGHLIGHT MOMENTS AT ST. ATHANASIUS

**The St. Athanasius Special Olympics Cheer Pancake Breakfast and Holiday Raffle were a huge success!**

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and everyone who joined us to support our cheerleaders. Your generosity means the world to us! A special thanks to Mark Wilson of Modern Woodmen of America for his incredible \$2,500 matching fund donation—it truly makes a difference for our team.

Because of your support, our cheerleaders are ready to shine—covering competition fees, updating uniforms, crafting colorful signs, and keeping our pompoms ready for action! We couldn't do it without you!

We're also thrilled to share that the Holiday Split-the-Pot Raffle raised \$17,820! Congratulations to Thomas Bryan, a St. Athanasius preschool parent, on winning the Holiday Raffle!



## 2025 CHURCH CALENDARS UPDATE

Due to an unexpected equipment failure at the Catholic Extension Society, there may be a delay in receiving our 2025 Church Calendars. The team is working diligently to resolve the issue, but we appreciate your patience as we wait for the calendars to arrive. Thank you for your understanding!



## This Week in Our Parish

### Sunday, December 29—THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

- 8:30 a.m. Mass in Church
- 9:30 a.m. "G.I.F.T." Growing in Faith Together—School Cafeteria
- 9:30 a.m. R.C.I.A.—Parish Center Room A
- 10:30 a.m. Reconciliation (Confessions)
- 11:00 a.m. Mass in Church
- 4:30 p.m. Archery Practice for St. A Students—Parish Hall/Gym
- 6:30 p.m. St. A Special Olympics Cheer—Parish Hall/Gym

### Monday, December 30

#### PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL CLOSED

- 8:00 a.m. Mass in the day chapel
- 5:30 p.m. Cheer Practice—Parish Hall/Gym Main
- 6:45 p.m. 6th Grade Basketball Practice—Parish Hall/Gym
- 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 366—Parish Center Basement
- 8:00 p.m. 8th Grade Basketball Practice—Parish Hall/Gym

### Tuesday, December 31

#### PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL CLOSED

- 12:00 p.m. Mass in Church
- 5:30 p.m. Archery Practice—Parish Hall/Gym

### Wednesday, January 1

#### PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL CLOSED

- 10:00 a.m. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Mass in Church (Holy Day of Obligation)
- 5:30 p.m. 4th Grade Basketball—Parish Hall/Gym
- 6:00 p.m. Reconciliation (Confessions)
- 6:30 p.m. Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Mass in Church (Holy Day of Obligation)
- 6:45 p.m. 6th Grade Basketball Practice—Parish Hall/Gym
- 8:00 p.m. 8th Grade Basketball—Parish Hall/Gym

### Thursday, January 2

#### PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL CLOSED

- 8:00 a.m. Mass in the day chapel
- 3:30 p.m. RCIA Inquiry—Debbie's Office or Parish Center Room A
- 5:30 p.m. Cheer Practice—Parish Hall/Gym
- 7:00 p.m. 4th Grade Basketball—Parish Hall/Gym

### Friday, January 3

#### PARISH OFFICE AND SCHOOL CLOSED

- 8:00 a.m. Mass in the day chapel
- 5:30 p.m. 4th Grade Girls Basketball—Parish Hall/Gym
- 7:00 p.m. All Basketball Teams—Parish Hall/Gym

### Saturday, January 4

- 9:00 a.m. FIRST SATURDAY MASS IN CHURCH—JOIN US!
- 3:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 4:00 p.m. Mass in Church

## The Parish Office Holiday Hours

The Parish Office will be closed from December 30 to January 3 to allow our staff to spend time with their families.

We will resume normal business hours on Monday, January 6.

Wishing you a joyful and blessed New Year with your loved ones!



## CELEBRATING THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Join us Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. as we celebrate Mary on this special day—a Holy Day of Obligation.



ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH, 5915 OUTER LOOP, LOUISVILLE, KY 40219  
WWW.STATHANASIUSLOUISVILLE.COM  
(502) 969-3332

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION BLESSING

Join us on January 4 or 5, 2025, for Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will take place 30 minutes before the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, and the 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

We will be doing this the first weekend of every month. Come and spend the most peaceful half hour of your week with Jesus.



St. Athanasius will have a 9:00 a.m. mass on the first Saturday of each month, in addition to our regular 4:00 p.m. mass.

We hope you can join us on January 4, 2025!



## “ASK FATHER” Q&A COLUMN

Note: I received an anonymous letter with a few concerns and questions so I thought I would answer them here all at once, briefly, in case this might help others too.

“Is being so rule-oriented too much like the Pharisees?”

The Church is a mother. Because we are hers, and because she loves us and is wiser than us, she is able to instruct us in how to do certain things. I like to refer to the sources of the Church’s laws and teachings not in order to be Pharisaical, or legalistic, or rigorist, but in order to make these sources more widely known and understood by the faithful. I think more people need to be aware of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Canon Law, etc.

“Isn’t slowing down at the Eucharist distracting?”

This is an accident of the way the current form of the Mass has the Priest say most of the prayers of the Mass out loud, whereas in the older Latin form he did not. I say the Words of Consecration in the same way that they were said before so that I can be in continuity with our tradition, rather than broken from it. See Q&A #4 in the September 15, 2024 bulletin.

“Didn’t Vatican II teach us to socialize before Mass and after Mass?”

I plan to write a separate Q&A about this. For now, I would just say that the “Spirit of Vatican II” - our impressions of what the Council taught - must always be linked to the “Body of Vatican II” - the various Constitutions, Declarations, and Decrees that it issued. Just like the human person is both body and soul. One of the documents of Vatican II, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium), says, “And at the proper times all should observe a reverent silence” (30). The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the guidebook for the Mass and a document informed by Vatican II, expands on this and says, “Even before the celebration itself, it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church, in the sacristy, in the vesting room, and in adjacent areas, so that all may dispose themselves to carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner” (45).

“Do the changes [to the process of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion] mean that you won’t be using the laity as much?”

I fully support the appropriate empowerment of the laity. The matter here is simply that the number of people currently sitting in the side sections doesn’t warrant additional EMHCs. The very helpful Instruction, “On Certain Matters to be Observed or to be Avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist” (Redemptionis Sacramentum), says, “Only out of true necessity is there to be recourse to the assistance of extraordinary ministers in the celebration of the Liturgy. Such recourse is not intended for the sake of a fuller participation of the laity but rather, by its very nature, is supplementary and provisional” (151). See also the “Instruction on Certain Questions Regarding the Collaboration of the Non-Ordained Faithful in the Sacred Ministry of Priest” (under “Pastoral Provisions,” Article 8), and the “Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds,” paragraphs 24-28.

“Why don’t you allow [EMHCs] at funerals, or allow wine [sic] to be part of the Eucharist?”

See above. I typically don’t distribute the Precious Blood at funerals because it is hard to estimate how many will be in attendance. I don’t want to run out of the Precious Blood or have an over-abundance remaining that the Deacon and I have to consume. The number of Sacred Hosts are easier to manage because we reserve many Hosts in the tabernacle.

“Why do you say at funerals that we don’t have to go to Communion?”

I say the following at every funeral Mass: “In a moment we will distribute Communion to those Catholics who are properly disposed to receive Communion. Be assured that you don’t have to receive Communion at every Mass that you attend.” I carefully word it this way because many Protestants and fallen-away Catholics come to funerals and are unsure if they should receive Communion or not. This informs them and “lets them off the hook.” It also prompts everyone to examine their conscience and ask if they should receive Communion at this time, rather than simply receiving it automatically, as many do. Each and every reception should be individually and carefully discerned. See my Q&A in the November 17, 2024 bulletin.

“Was the explanation at the First Communion necessary?”

Perhaps not. I typically don’t like to add a lot of ad-lib commentary to the Mass, but at a First Communion, I feel like it’s helpful. It’s also a convenient, annual time to refresh the congregation’s awareness and make sure we are all receiving Communion correctly. A rubric in the Easter Vigil Mass gives some precedence for this: “Before the Ecce Agnus Dei (Behold the Lamb of God), the Priest may briefly address the newly baptized about receiving their first Communion and about the excellence of this great mystery, which is the climax of Initiation and the center of the whole of Christian life” (Roman Missal, no. 64).

Finally, I would just say that I warmly appreciate and welcome people’s concerns and questions. You can always come to me! Submitting individual questions for this column anonymously is perfectly fine because sometimes people are embarrassed to ask their question. But a letter of several concerns and questions that is anonymous isn’t very helpful because it gives no opportunity for response, explanation, or dialogue. I won’t respond to every anonymous letter this way in the bulletin, but I thought this time it might be helpful for others. Thank you! God bless you all! ~Fr. Hardesty

**Do you have a question about the Catholic faith, the Mass, the Sacraments, the Church, the Scriptures, our moral teachings, etc.?**

**Submit your question to Elizabeth at [secretary@staparish.com](mailto:secretary@staparish.com) and she will forward it to Fr. Hardesty anonymously for him to answer. The questions and answers will be posted in the bulletin in the “Ask Father” column as he is able to work on them. Send your questions now!**





## Discover the Difference at St. Athanasius Catholic School!

We pride ourselves on providing a warm and inclusive environment that fosters a strong sense of community and instills core values rooted in the Catholic faith. Our dedicated and experienced faculty are committed to ensuring every student receives a well-rounded education, promoting critical thinking, creativity, and compassion.

With a comprehensive curriculum, cutting-edge resources, and a range of extracurricular activities, we cater to the unique needs of each student. At St. Athanasius, we believe in shaping future leaders who are not only academically proficient but also grounded in Catholic values. Enroll today and embark on a journey of academic excellence, personal growth, and spiritual enrichment!

**Location:** 5915 Outer Loop, Louisville, KY 40219

**Contact us at:** 502-969-2345 to learn more or schedule a visit.

Shape your child's future with us at St. Athanasius Catholic School!



## CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION TUITION ASSISTANCE

ROUND 1—CLOSED

**ROUND 2—DEADLINE—JANUARY 31, 2025**

It's not too late to apply for tuition assistance for the 25–26 school year! Applications verified between **December 1 and January 31, 2025, are eligible for Round 2.**

Plan to complete your application, including documentation (2023 federal income tax return and 2023 W-2 information), by mid-January to allow for verification.



For questions, contact **FACTS parent help line at 1-866-315-9262** or visit them online at **[www.ceflou.org](http://www.ceflou.org)**. They will be happy to assist you.

PLEASE  
PRAY  
FOR



Karen Bizosky  
Kevin Osting  
Martha Culver  
Cambron Family  
Debbie Farmer  
Oliver Hartong

JVM  
Jean Burton  
Fred Klausing  
David Keiner  
Robin Schmalz-Arnold  
Joan Jockell  
Sherrin Williams  
Bob Haynes  
Sharon Miles  
... and those in our heart!

### COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know are homebound and cannot make it to Mass, and would like to receive Communion, please contact the **Parish Office** at (502) 969-3332.

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY IN JANUARY 2025

#### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE

**Saturdays in January—4:00 PM**

**Sacred Host** – Bill Metzmeier and Ann Vest

**Precious Blood** – Bill Moore and Deacon

**Sundays in January—8:30 AM**

**Sacred Host**—Andrea Knight and Charlotte Mudd

**Precious Blood**—Jacinta Moore and Deacon

**Sundays in January—11:00 AM**

**Sacred Host**—Jaina Grosshans and Valerie Minter

**Precious Blood**—Marvin Goeing and Deacon

**\*Youth-led Mass on January 12 at 11:00 a.m. Mass**

#### LECTOR SCHEDULE

**Saturdays in January—4:00 PM**

Jan 4 and 11—Laura UkanAke - Reading 1/Kerry Ledington - Reading 2

Jan 18 and 25—Kerry Ledington - Reading 1/Laura UcanAke - Reading 2

**Sundays in January—8:30 AM**

Jan 5 and 12—Joe Thomas - Reading 1/Christy Owens - Reading 2

Jan 19 and 26—Christy Owens - Reading 1/Joe Thomas - Reading 2

**Sundays in January—11:00 AM**

Jan 5—Adrian Arnold - Reading 1/Angie Poole - Reading 2

Jan 19 and 26—Angie Poole - Reading 1/Adrian Arnold - Reading 2

**\*Youth-led Mass on January 12 at 11:00 a.m. Mass**

#### HOSPITALITY SCHEDULE

**Saturdays in January—4:00 PM**

Vincent Lush - Captain, Rita Bernauer, Tina Blanford, and James Faught

**Sundays in January—8:30 AM**

Danny Stemmler – Captain, Debbie Stemmler, John Kolb, Kevin Vittitoe, and Cameron Webb

**Sundays in January—11:00 AM**

Donald Bibb – Captain, Tim May, Paul Pusey, and Jim Duffy

**\*Youth-led Mass on January 12 at 11:00 a.m. Mass**

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

### Sacrament of BAPTISM

Our next Baptism class for parents and godparents is set for **Thursday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Baptism will be held on

**Saturday, January 11 at 4:00 p.m. Mass**

**Saturday, January 11 at 5:00 p.m. (Group)**

**Sunday, January 12 at 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Sunday, January 12 at 11 a.m. Mass**

If you would like to have your child baptized, please contact **Debbie Minton**, Director of Religious Formation, at [dminton@staparish.com](mailto:dminton@staparish.com) or (502) 969-3332, ext. 106.



### Sacrament of HOLY EUCHARIST

Preparation for Holy Eucharist for Adults is done through R.C.I.A.

If interested in preparation of Holy Communion for children, contact **Debbie Minton**, Director of Religious Formation, at [dminton@staparish.com](mailto:dminton@staparish.com), or parish number (502) 969-3332, ext. 106.



### Sacrament of CONFIRMATION

For Confirmation of Adults preparation (R.C.I.A) or youth preparation, contact **Debbie Minton**, Director of Religious Formation, at [dminton@staparish.com](mailto:dminton@staparish.com), or parish number (502) 969-3332, ext. 106.

### Sacrament of RECONCILIATION (Confessions)

Saturdays from 3:00—4:00 p.m. And on Wednesday and Sunday, 30 minutes prior to Mass.

### Sacrament of ANOINTING OF SICK

Offered upon request at home or in the hospital. Please contact the **Parish Office** at (502) 969-3332.

### Sacrament of MATRIMONY

Couples who wish to be married should contact **Debbie Minton**, Director of Religious Formation, at [dminton@staparish.com](mailto:dminton@staparish.com), or (502) 969-3332, ext. 106. Contact at least six months before the proposed wedding date to discuss the wedding process, fees, and available dates.

### Sacrament of HOLY ORDERS

If you have questions about a possible vocation to the diaconate or priesthood, please reach out to **Fr. Hardesty** at [mhardesty@archlou.org](mailto:mhardesty@archlou.org) or (502) 314-4131.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"....Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"  
Luke 2:49

Even at a young age, Jesus understood that he was to be a steward of his Father's will. Christian stewards seek to live their lives in God's will.



## WEEKLY GIFTS

Due to the early holiday printing schedule, weekly gift amounts are unavailable this week.

To give online through the WeShare platform, please visit our webpage:

<https://www.saintathanasilouisville.com/giving/>  
to set up your account.

**Thank you for your continued generosity!**

**PASTORAL STAFF (OFFICE PHONE: 502-969-3332)**  
**HOURS: MONDAY—FRIDAY, 8:30 A.M.—4:00 P.M.**  
[facebook.com/StALouisville](https://www.facebook.com/StALouisville)

### Pastor

Fr. Matthew Hardesty - mhardesty@archlou.org • ext. 114  
Cell: 502-314-4131

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/matthardesty](https://www.facebook.com/matthardesty)

Deacon Sam King - sking0104@twc.com

### Principal

Kristen Blankenship – blankenshipk@athanasiusschool.org

### Business Manager

Andy Smith – asmith@staparish.com • ext. 104

### Bookkeeper

Tammy Shoemaker – bookkeeper@staparish.com • ext. 112

### Administrative Assistant

Elizabeth Font – secretary@staparish.com • ext. 0

### Director of Religious Formation

Debbie Minton – dminton@staparish.com • ext. 106

### Director of Communication

Cheryl Salyer – communication@staparish.com • ext. 103

### Director of Music

Debbie Sandler – dsandler@staparish.com

### Music Assistant

Donna Glasser

## NEXT WEEK READINGS

### *The Epiphany of the Lord*



Isaiah 60:1-6;

Psalms 72

Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6;

Matthew 2:1-12

**Readings with audio visit:**  
[bible.usccb.org](https://bible.usccb.org).

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

**VINCE HEUSER 458-5879**



## 2024 Catholic Services Appeal *Bringing Christ to Others*

Our Parish Goal: **\$49,500**

Our Parish Participation Goal: **211** households

Thanks to those who have already responded with a gift to the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal. As of **December 13**, we have raised **\$45,681** toward our goal (**92% of our goal**) through the support of **186** households. During this season of Advent, please consider making a gift to the Catholic Services Appeal. All gifts are tax deductible. Gifts may be made through our parish office or online at [www.ArchLou.org/CSA](http://www.ArchLou.org/CSA).

If giving by check, please make checks payable to **"Catholic Services Appeal."**