



Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

6596 Smiley Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Thomas M. Pastorius
fathertompastorius@gmail.com

Deacon

James Tetreault
jtetreaultepiphany@gmail.com

Pastoral Associate

Deacon Michael Rennier
michaelrennier@gmail.com

Music Director

Elizabeth Svancarek

Plant Manager

John Ellison
johnnellison1@aol.com

Parish Secretary

Trish Nerviani
trishnerviani@aol.com

MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Weekday Masses Monday, Wednesday
Thursday, Friday & Saturdays: 8:00 am

Tuesday Morning Prayer: 8:00 am

Tuesday Mass: 5:30 pm

Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday,
7:00-7:50 am or by appointment.

Tuesdays, 5-5:20 pm

Baptisms: Meeting first Thursday of the
month. Preregistration required.

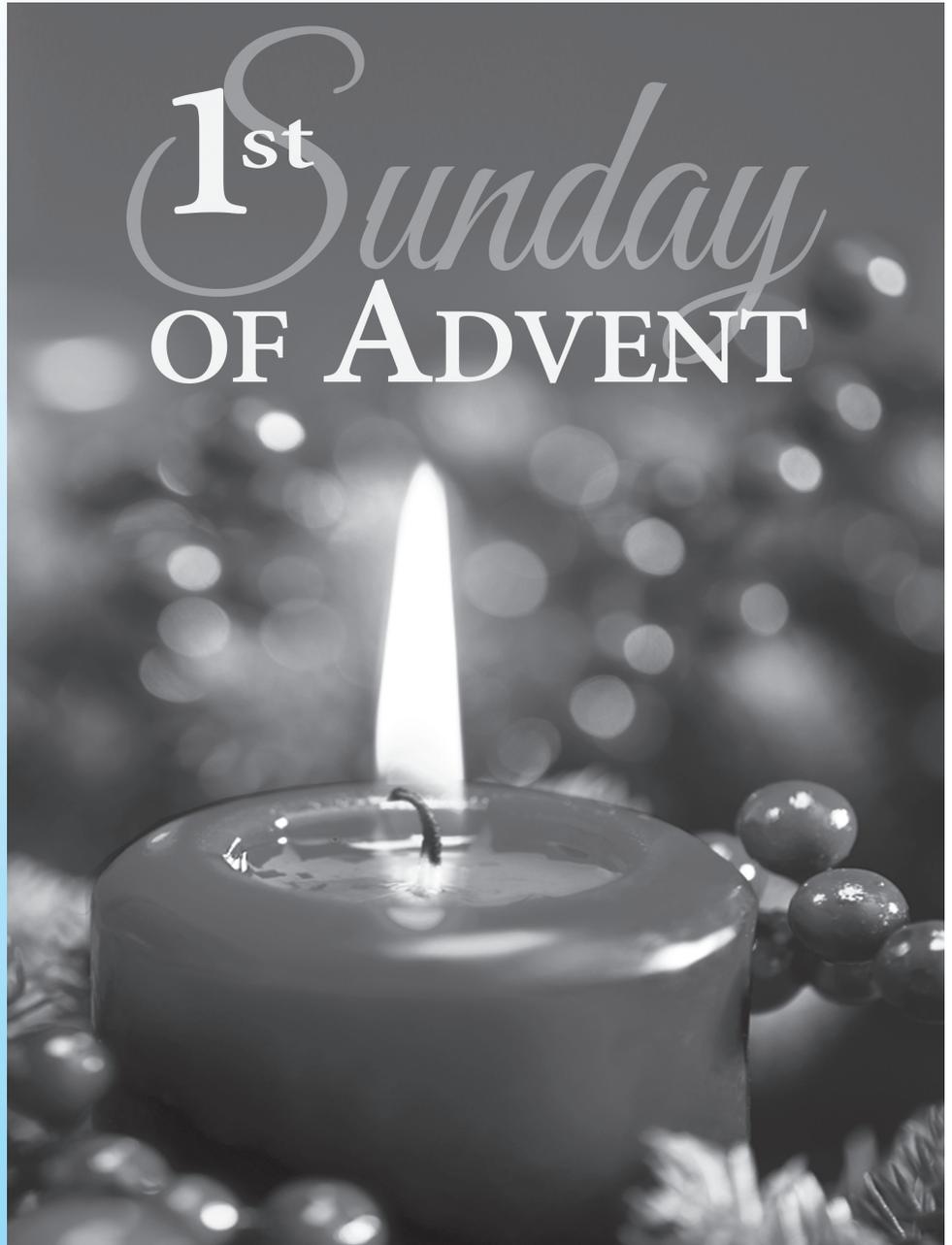
Marriages: Contact the priest at least 9
months prior to the wedding date.

Funerals: To be arranged by contacting
the Parish Office.

Change of Address or Telephone

Number: Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Deadline: 4:00 pm Monday.



First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2016

Phone: 314-781-1199 Fax: 314-645-8760
Sacramental Emergency After Hours Line: 314-260-6261
www.epiphanystl.org

LIVING OUR FAITH

From the Desk of Fr. Thomas Pastorius,

1. **Faith and Family Programs:** Faith & Family for November 29th which is a 5th Tuesday will be a well deserved night off.
2. **Weekly Shout Out:** As we begin this Advent Season, I simply want to thank everyone at Mass this weekend for taking their faith seriously.
3. **Congratulations to Deacon Michael Rennie and Let us get ready to celebrate big time:** Deacon Michael Rennie (our pastoral associate) has been informed by Archbishop Carlson that the Archbishop will ordain him to the Roman Catholic priesthood on Thursday December 8th at 2 PM at the Old Cathedral. All are welcome to attend. The soon-to-be Fr. Michael Rennie will celebrate his first Mass on Friday December 9th at 7 PM with a reception to follow. We are looking into getting a bus for anyone who would want to attend the ordination at the Old Cathedral.
4. **December 8th:** December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation and our Mass times will be at 8 AM and 7 PM.
5. **Christmas is less than a Months Away:** Have you finished your Christmas shopping? I have. Do you want to have your Christmas shopping done? Consider purchasing your loved one gift certificates to their favorite restaurant or store. A tip: buy a mason jar, place the gift card inside it, and then fill the jar with M&Ms.
6. **Advent/Christmas Morning of Prayer:** Please join us December 17th for a morning of prayer. Fr. Bob Suit will be our guest director for the morning which will be filled with insightful talks from Fr. Bob and different prayer opportunities.
7. **Christmas Bulletin:** Here is a reminder that we will be having our second annual Special Christmas Bulletin this Christmas. Anyone making a donation towards our Church decoration fund will have their name or their loved one's name listed in this bulletin and the whole group will be the intentions for the Christmas Masses. (**Deadline - December 16th**)
8. **Jesse Tree:** This year's Advent program should be found on a hand out in this bulletin. Otherwise you can find it on line.
9. **Help Decorating:** Please plan on coming to Church for an hour or two on December 18 to help decorate Church. We have many Christmas trees, wreathes, and a large nativity scene that needs to go up.

God bless,
Fr. Tom

2016 ACA Winning Essay, Written by: Maya Gravagna - *The ACA*

How do Catholics come together with the ACA? Throughout my life, I have learned a lot about Catholic ideals and issues, whether this was through Confirmation, First Communion, church on Sundays or maybe from a few of the many religion classes that I have taken through the years. Until very recently I had very little-if any-knowledge of the ACA and I didn't even know what stewardship meant. In this essay, I will be discussing the importance of Catholics coming together and participating in the ACA, what stewardship means to me, how I practice it in my life, and how people in my community are affected.

Catholics coming together and participating in the ACA is important both to the church and the community. The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) brings Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Saint Louis together to answer the Gospel call of Christ to serve others. To me, a church does not just mean the physical building, but so much more; it is the people that make up the congregation and the community of friends that fill the building. So why should Catholics come together as a church and participate in the ACA? I think it's because bringing a church together to participate in anything is important to help strengthen the community and the church. We are stronger together and can do so much good as a group. Participating in what is considered our gospel call through the ACA is life-changing on so many levels, as it's giving back to those who need it the most.

To me, stewardship is giving back to the community and people around you. You can give back through service, such as volunteering at a food pantry or camp that teaches Down syndrome kids to ride bikes. To give back is the most wonderful thing in the world; the look in the eyes of the people you help: one of pure joy and happiness that can not be seen anywhere else. The ACA gives back in many different ways, such as the special needs fund and Catholic charities giving back to people and places that really need it. According to the ACA, stewardship is "returning a portion of our gifts to God. The gifts we return are our time, our talent and our treasure. We return these gifts not because God or our Church needs them, but because we feel an overwhelming need to show our love and gratitude to God". Giving back not because we feel we have to and are being forced to but because we want to, because we have been given so much that we want to give some back so that other people can feel the way we do and they can give back.

The ACA greatly effects the community through generous donations to the Catholic schools and churches around Saint Louis. The ACA gives approximately 91 cents of every dollar raised back to the community in the forms of direct service. This year the ACA had a goal to raise 13.5 million dollars, which has been far exceeded reaching 14.6 million. The amount raised provides the resources to enable the archdiocese to continue funding efforts to carry out the mission of the Church during this year. More than 51,000 households participated in the appeal, which provides funding for services and outreach in the 11 counties of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This scholarship essay is just one of the many scholarships given out which alone gives back \$55,000 dollars a year to Catholic schools around the Saint Louis area. Taking my background into consideration I know first hand how important these scholarship are. Quite honestly, if it wasn't for the scholarships that I have received, there would be no possible way for me to be receiving the education I am now. For that, I will be forever grateful. There are so many kids out there working so hard to get a good education and go to college, with these scholarships it becomes possible.

In this essay, I discussed the importance of Catholics coming together and participating in the ACA, what stewardship means to me and how I practice it in my life, and how people in my community are affected. It is very important for people to come together as one in a group to support and strengthen the church and build up the community around it. The ACA give millions of dollars back to churches, schools, homeless shelters, and food pantries to help buildup the Saint Louis community and churches all around Saint Louis. Stewardship is defined as giving back, whether it be through service and volunteer work or through the job you do. Stewardship is giving back to the community and helping to build it up. People come together with the ACA to help further their faith through services as well as give back to the church and community.

Spiritual Ponderings

"Power of Stories"

Here are some more spiritual truths through the language of spirituality - STORIES!!!.

The Seed

A successful business man was growing old and knew it was time to choose a successor to take over the business. Instead of choosing one of his directors or his children, he decided to do something different. He called all the young executives in his company together. He said, 'It is time for me to step down and choose the next CEO. I have decided to choose one of you. The young executives were shocked, but the boss continued. 'I am going to give each one of you a SEED today - One very special SEED. I want you to plant the seed, water it, and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from the seed I have given you. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next CEO'

One man, named Jim, was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly, told his wife the story. She helped him get a pot, soil and compost and he planted the seed. Every day, he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other executives began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow.

Jim kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by, still nothing. By now, others were talking about their plants, but Jim didn't have a plant and he felt like a failure.

Six months went by--still nothing in Jim's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Jim didn't say anything to his colleagues, however. He just kept watering and fertilizing the soil - He so wanted the seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the young executives of the company brought their plants to the CEO for inspection. Jim told his wife that he wasn't going to take an empty pot. But she asked him to be honest about what happened. Jim felt sick at his stomach, it was going to be the most embarrassing moment of life, but he knew his wife was right.

He took his empty pot to the board room.

When Jim arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other executives. They were beautiful-- in all shapes and sizes. Jim put his empty pot on the floor and many of his colleagues laughed, a few felt sorry for him!

When the CEO arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted his young executives. Jim just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees, and flowers you have grown," said the CEO. "Today one of you will be appointed the next CEO!"

All of a sudden, the CEO spotted Jim at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered the financial director to bring him to the front. Jim was terrified. He thought, "The CEO knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me fired!"

When Jim got to the front, the CEO asked him what had happened to his seed. Jim told him the story. The CEO asked everyone to sit down except Jim. He looked at Jim, and then announced to the young executives, "Behold your next Chief Executive! His name is Jim!"

Jim couldn't believe it. Jim couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new CEO the others said? Then the CEO said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone in this room a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds; they were dead - It was not possible for them to grow. All of you, except Jim, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Jim was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new Chief Executive!"

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.

If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.

If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.

If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.

If you plant hard work, you will reap success.

So, be careful what you plant now, it will determine what you will reap later.

Sometimes, I think we Christians give up too easily instead of realizing that we are on the right path and that God is teaching us an important lesson that we will only learn through perseverance in our prayers and good works.

First Sunday of Advent

Gospel MT 24:37-44

Spiritual Reflection: Every minor league baseball player dreams of the day that he or she will be called up to the majors despite the fact that they do not know if that day will ever come. All they are able to do is prepare themselves for that day by practicing and developing the skills necessary to play on the professional level. In much the same way, a good Christian desires to one day to enter into heaven despite not knowing the time that this will happen. All he or she is able to do is prepare for that day by practicing and developing the skills necessary to live on that level of existence by loving, forgiving, and serving others.

Spiritual Questions

1. What can you do to make this Advent different?
2. What skills do you need to develop in order to be allowed into heaven?
3. What bad habits do you need to get rid of in order to get to heaven?
4. What sort of dedication do you need to become a professional Catholic?
5. Are you ready for Jesus to return?

Deacon Michael Rennie's Priesthood Ordination Deacon Michael's ordination is scheduled for December 8, 2016 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This will count as fulfilling the holy day obligation) at the Old Cathedral, 2 pm. Deacon Michael's First Mass will be celebrated at Epiphany, 7 pm, Friday, December 9, 2016. A reception will immediately follow. **All parishioners are invited to either one.** Please call the parish office if you are interested in car pooling or joining us on a bus.

LITURGIES & SCHEDULES

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

First Sunday of Advent, November 27

8:00 am Barbara Ann Schnieder
10:30 am Parishioners

Monday, November 28

8:00 am Katie Bach

Tuesday, November 29

8:00 am Morning Prayer
5:30 pm Enrollees & Benefactors of
Epiphany Memorial Fund

Wednesday, November 30 Feast of St. Andrew, Apostle

8:00 am Helen Kunz (*Special Intentions*)

Thursday, December 1

8:00 am John & Elizabeth Buckley

Friday, December 2

8:00 am Janice Fairless

Saturday, December 3

8:00 am Arlene Fink
5:00 pm Paul Meyer

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4

8:00 am Parishioners
10:30 am Barbara Ann Schnieder



OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday - Saturday November 28 - December 3

- 7:30 am - Rosary, Church

Sunday, November 27

- 9:00 am - Bible Study, AR
- 9:15 am - Little Lambs, RBF
- 7:00 pm RCIA, CMR
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

Monday, November 28

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts, Upper Hall

Tuesday, November 29

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym

Wednesday, November 30

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 6:30 pm - Bells Practice, Church
- 7:30 pm - Choir Practice, Church

Thursday, December 1

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 7:00 pm - Baptism Mtg., CMR
- 7:30 pm - Prayer Group, Church

Friday, December 2

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 8:30 am - Exposition & Adoration, Church
- 3:30-6:30 pm - Dance, UH

Saturday, December 3

Sunday, December 4

- 9:00 am - Bible Study, AR
- 9:15 am - Little Lambs, RBF
- 7:00 pm RCIA, CMR
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

OUR OFFERING FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19-20, 2016

Sunday Collection

General Fund \$4,237.00
General Fund Loose \$195.60
Total **\$4,432.60**

All Souls \$10.00
Christmas \$10.00
Christmas Flowers \$115.00
Immaculate Conception... \$10.00
Kenrick Seminary \$15.00
Military \$32.00
Maintenance & Repair \$43.00
Retired Religious \$60.00
SVDP \$580.00
Solemnity of Mary \$10.00
Votive \$59.00
Debt \$25.00 \$95.00 (YTD)
Tuition Assistance \$25.00 \$673.00 (YTD)
Endowment Fund \$40.00 \$215.00 (YTD)



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND & SICK OF OUR PARISH

Ethan Strauss	Ethan Sonderman	Mary Hipskind
Pat Wallis	Chris Perron	Dominic Caputa
Daniel Barr	George Limpert	Thelma Boggiano
Toni Berberich	Jean Montrey	Joe Lopez
Bernice Connor	Jade Nesselhauf	Bob Kozemczak
Mark Preiss	Kathy Hatfield	Nanette & Don McPherson
	Ann Brenner	

LIFE TEEN HIGH SCHOOLERS! Please join us this Wednesday, Nov. 30th from 7-9pm at Bishop DuBourg as we continue with our series - *Immaculata*. Snacks and prayer are always provided. Please see www.saintlouislifeteen.org for more information!

ATTENTION 8TH GRADERS! Save the date for Luke 18! It will be held Feb. 17-19th, 2017 - see www.saintlouislifeteen.org/luke18 for more details.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44
Monday: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 23/Mt 4:18-22
Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147/Mt 9:35--10:1, 5a, 6-8
Next Sunday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



Flower Power Got a little extra change jingling in your pocket? Why not put it in an envelope marked "Flower Power" and help defray the cost of decorating our Church!

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS

Kasey Paige Toiletries Plus Collection- Epiphany volunteers will join Joan of Arc and St. Mark's Episcopal volunteers to give a Christmas party at Kasey Paige on Dec 10th. Please donate any of the following items that we will pack in small gift bags for the residents. Thank you for your generosity. Shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bath soap, hand or body lotion, pens, writing paper/notebooks, gloves and socks for men and women. Please leave the donations in the box marked Kasey Paige in the vestibule by 9 am Dec 10.

2017 Calendar collection- your extra 2017 calendars are wanted for persons in nursing homes, Kasey Paige, and those starting over from scratch. Please leave your calendars in the box marked Kasey Paige Donations through February. Thanks for sharing your time and energy!

Church Christmas Cleaning Help

needed to clean our church for the Christmas season. The date is set for Thursday, December 15th after the 8 am Mass. Cleaning supplies are furnished; just bring rags and buckets. Refreshments will be served after cleaning in the Assumption Room. For more information contact Gloria at 647-8731 or Dolores at 644-0067.



Men's Club Alpha Square Winners for November

Mike O'Fallon (015)	\$100
Maggie O'Fallon (014)	\$25
Jeff O'Fallon (16)	\$25
Shane Ward (N15)	\$25
Sophie Palardy (P15)	\$25

Congratulations!

Ladies Guild News

Our monthly card social will be held on Monday, December 19th at 10:00 am in the Assumption Room.

Our regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14th at 11:30 am in the Assumption Room. This will be our Christmas party. A great luncheon will be served, along with some games and surprises. Please send \$5.00 to:

Jan Holmes
6225 Arsenal Street
St. Louis, MO 63139

Telephone - 314-644-4299. Reservations are needed, deadline by Monday, December 12th.

We will be taking up a cash collection for St. Vincent DePaul to help make a nice Christmas for someone. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Marilyn, Nancy, Sue and Gloria

Missouri Life Caravan is, once again, organizing buses for the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Thursday- Saturday, Jan. 26- 28, 2017. Join us and thousands of others from across the U.S. for this huge pro-life gathering in our nation's capital. This trip does not involve overnight stays in hotels as we sleep on the buses. The cost before Dec. 23 is \$190. The cost after Dec. 23 is \$205. For registration and bus information contact us at: 314-434-4900 or mrl.eastern@yahoo.com. You can also download our registration form @ www.missourilife.org. Registration deadline is Jan. 3rd.



Christmas Trees Boy Scout Troop 336 of St. Michael's Parish in Shrewsbury will be selling Christmas trees from their lot in the Mackenzie Pointe Shopping Center. Hours are from 6-9 pm, Monday through Friday and 9 am - 9 pm Saturday and Sunday. Your patronage is appreciated by our scouts!

'Tis the Season for Gift Cards! The Christmas season is quickly approaching and we are increasing our variety of in-stock certificates to help make your **Christmas shopping stress free!** For a temporary period we will have the following gift cards in stock: Amazon-\$25, Applebee's- \$25, Chili's- \$25, Jack in the Box- \$10, JC Penney-\$25, O'Charley's-\$25, Pizza Hut-\$10, Red Lobster-\$25, Starbucks-\$10, Steak-n-Shake-\$10, Subway-\$10, Taco Bell-\$10, and Wendy's-\$10. We also have all of our regular in-stock gift cards. Please see the order forms located near the main entrance to church for the full listing of available gift cards. For questions, please see one of the volunteers or call Trish at the parish office, 781-1199. Certificates ordered on Monday will be ready for pick up by the following Friday. **Place your Christmas orders today!**



St Matthias New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance

Saturday, December 31st, from 7 pm - 1 am. Music by The Scott Laytham & Karl "Tricke" Holmes Duo. Cost is \$30 per person. BYOB or beer and wine - \$2 per drink. Call Sandy (314) 544-2162 after 3 pm or the Parish Office (314) 892-7500 or email smaevents2017@yahoo.com. Please purchase tickets by December 17, 2016.



St. Vincent DePaul Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

Please consider adopting a family for Christmas. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance for the Christmas Holidays, please contact St. Vincent DePaul through the parish business office, 314-781-1199.

SUITE SEATS FOR A SWEET CAUSE



STL Cardinals Baseball Suite Raffle 2017 Season - All proceeds benefit the Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund. Support families choosing to make the loving, and often expensive, choice to grow their family through adoption AND get a chance to enjoy a 2017 Cardinals game from the Mercy Suite! Raffle winner receives 10 tickets in Suite 33 (along the 1st base line) at Busch Stadium for a 2017 Cardinals' Home Game, \$150 of food/drinks and one parking pass for a mutually agreed upon date. Made available through the generous donation of Mercy. All proceeds benefit the Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund. Great Holiday Gift! Raffle Tickets can be delivered in a festive gift envelope perfect for the person who has everything! Raffle tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. To purchase raffle tickets online: <http://archstl.org/raffleforadoption> or call the Office of Natural Family Planning at 314.997.7576. Raffle closes March 8, 2017 with drawing on March 15, 2017. Winner will be notified by phone or e-mail.

ProLife Events Project Joseph is a spiritual support group for post-abortive men. Meetings are held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7 pm. For more information or location details, please call or email Project Rachel at 314-792-7565 or stlprojectrachel@archstl.org. You may also contact our Spiritual Support Coordinator for Project Rachel, Marisol Pfaff, during office hours at 314-792-7451 or ihnpfaff@swbell.net. *Please pray for an end to the abortion of innocent, defenseless unborn babies.*