



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
johnellison11@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.

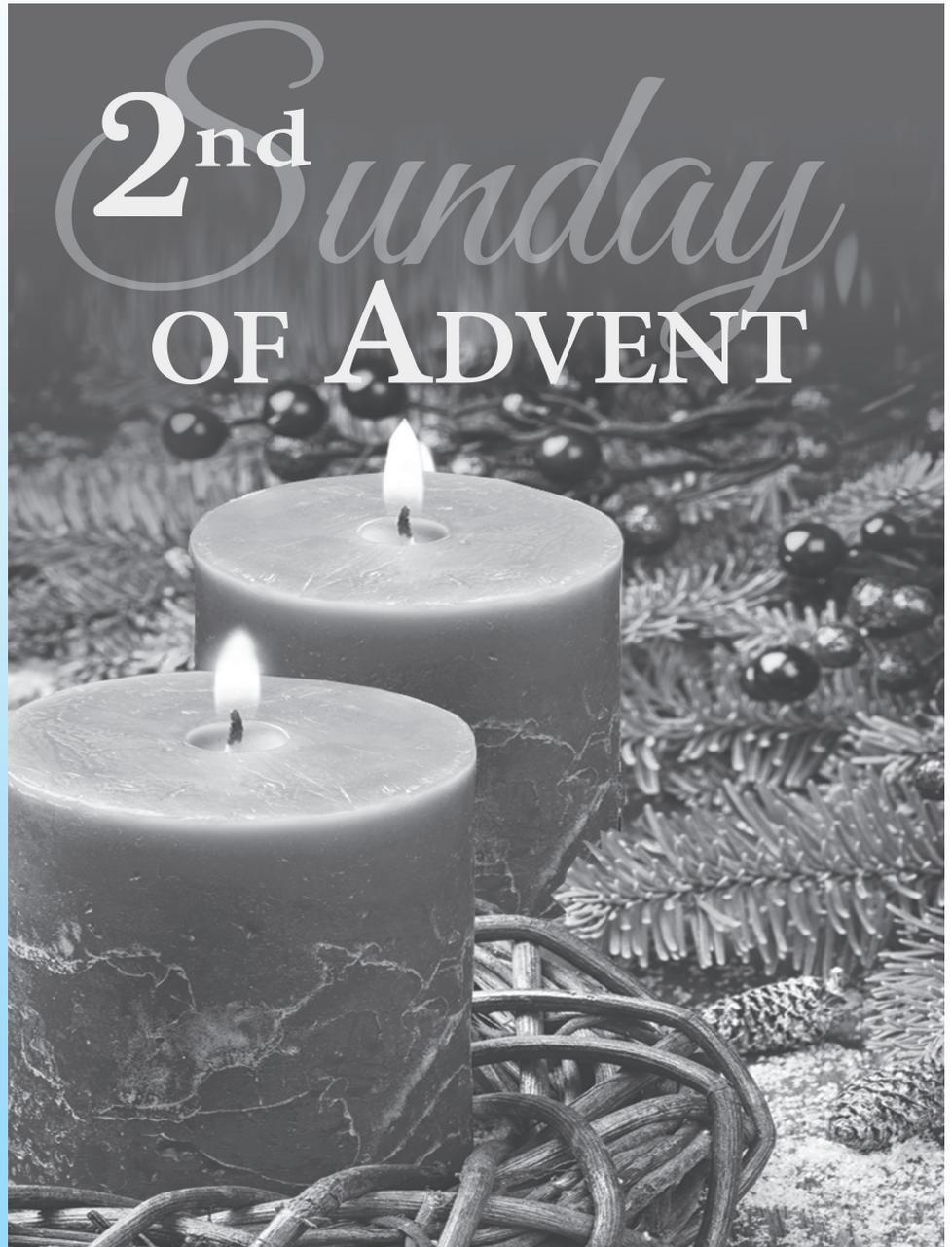
Marriages: Contact the priest at least 9
months prior to the wedding date.

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.



Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 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:

This Tuesday December 6th is FIRST TUESDAY of the month and so we will be having at 6:30 PM the Blue Knights, Little Flowers, and Young Disciples. The Pillars of the Faith Class will begin at 7 PM.

2. Congratulations to the soon to be "Father Michael Rennie"

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.

3. December 8th: Feast of The Immaculate Conception

December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The parish Mass times will be at 8 AM and 7 PM on December 8th for this Holy Day of Obligation.

4. Advent Penance Service Moved to December 11th.

I made a mistake when planning the Advent season. I forgot that we would need time on Sunday December 18th to decorate Church for Easter, I mean Christmas. Therefore our parish penance service will be December 11th at 2 PM in Church.

5. 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.

6. Weekly Shout Out

I would like to thank the men of the parish especially, John Ellison, who took the time to replace every light in the parish gym. We as a parish were required to do this because of new government regulations and we have been blest that these men stepped forward to help make the change over as inexpensively as possible.

7. Beyond Sunday

As the end of the year comes quicker and quicker, some of us, myself included, will start receiving reminders of our pledges to the Beyond Sunday Capital Campaign for Catholic Education, if at all possible please fulfill these pledges. I am sure that the children and parents of the Archdiocese most grateful.

8. 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.

9. Jesse Tree

This year's Advent program should be found on a hand out in this bulletin. Otherwise you can find it online.

10. 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

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, 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.



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 at www.missourilife.org. Registration deadline is Jan. 3, 2017.

LIVING OUR FAITH

Spiritual Ponderings

Reflecting on the Gift of Faith

For the month of December, I would like to share with you some recent thoughts I had on faith being a gift and how we can best be prepared to receive it.

I have always been fascinated with the idea of why some people have a belief in God that is so strong that they are willing to die rather than deny God and at the same time there are many who live their lives in such a way that it appears that they never even think of God. Faith according to the Letter to the Hebrews is "the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith, therefore, is the belief in something that one cannot necessarily prove through reason.

There are many in our world today who try to convince us that to be a person of faith is to be irrational, but I have found the opposite to be true. For example, I have faith that Istanbul, Turkey exists because I have seen small dots on different maps labeled Istanbul. I have heard people talk about it as if it were a real place on the news. Finally, I have met people who say that they are from there. All of this has been enough to convince me that Istanbul exists and is a real place, despite the fact that I have never physically been there or saw it.

I have never seen God, but I have heard people tell me stories about how God has worked in their life - that has left me convinced that God does exist. The complexity of the universe leaves me to believe with relative certainty that there is some sort of divine architect behind it. To believe in the Big Bang Theory without a divine architect to me is similar to believing that some great building will emerge from a bucket of Lego bricks when they are tossed onto the floor.

The Catholic Church proclaims that faith, belief in God, is a gift. Faith is a gift that our God freely gives to everyone. The reason, therefore, that some people believe in God and others do not has more to do with our response to this gift from God than with anything else. I believe the following story from my childhood will help us understand and visualize the Church's teaching on the gift of faith.

I don't remember which birthday exactly growing up, but it was sometime during my junior high years that I knew for my birthday that year I was going to receive my very own bicycle as my parents' birthday gift to me. I remember what a great gift it was because I desired it so much. I was so excited as my family pulled into my grandmother's driveway where my birthday party was going to take place. I still remember fondly riding my blue and yellow BMX bicycle all afternoon around my grandmother's cul-de-sac. I was truly in heaven.

As evening began to descend, I began to panic as I realized that there was no way that my brand new bicycle was going to fit into the car with all my brothers and sisters. Sadly, I also knew that my parents would not leave my siblings behind so that we could take my bicycle home. This was truly a moment in which I had received a gift, but I was ill prepared to take full possession of it because I had no way of taking my bicycle home with me.

In the same way some people receive the gift of faith. As Catholics we believe that our God is always willing to give us the gift of faith. The question of unbelief therefore has more to do with are we prepared to take possession of the gift or not. The following are ten ways, habits to develop, thought patterns to cultivate, and choices to make that will allow us to be more open to receiving this great gift of faith.

As I conclude this week's reflection on the gift of faith, I would like to share with you Thomas Merton's Prayer of Abandonment.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road although I may know nothing about it. Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Second Sunday of Advent

MT 3:1-12

Spiritual Reflection: When we first hear about where John lived, how he dressed, and what he ate, we can begin to think that he was maybe a little crazy. John though is not crazy, but he is rather dressing and imitating the prophet Elijah. Elijah was the one prophet during a period of Israel's history that had remained faithful to God. The rest had turned to worship local deities called Baals. In a similar way John is showing people his faith in God in a very visual way. For John words are not enough. People also must have a change of heart.

Spiritual Questions

1. How would someone know you are a Christian? 2. Do you find yourself acting differently with different groups of people? 3. Would your behavior change if you knew Christ was in the crowd watching? 4. What does the way you dress in everyday life say about you and your beliefs? 5. What does the way you dress at Mass say about what you believe?

THANKSGIVING MEALS FOLLOW UP We want to thank all those who helped with the Thanksgiving meals. Either providing the needed food products, cooking turkeys, helping prepare the meals and to those who delivered a big THANK YOU. A special thanks to the Mens' Club and those who provided the big turkeys. Also to the parish, for providing the paper products and the gym kitchen. Ninety-eight meals were provided to individuals and families who would not have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

Christmas Craft & Social Lindenwood Area Senior Ministry wants to help you get into the spirit of the holidays with a Christmas Craft and Social on Tuesday, December 6th at 1 pm. Make a candy cane wreath for your home or to give as a gift. Enjoy holiday cookies and warm drinks. Sing along to holiday tunes with guitarist, Larry Ortals. The event will be held at Provision Living of St. Louis Hills on the lower level (6543 Chippewa). Please RSVP to Katie at 314-647-4591 by December 5th. No charge to attend.

LITURGIES & SCHEDULES

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4

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

Monday, December 5

8:00 am Alice Bittner

Tuesday, December 6

8:00 am Morning Prayer
5:30 pm Joseph Gorla

Wednesday, December 7

8:00 am Otto Busch

Thursday, December 8 (Holy Day of Obligation) Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Don & Sean Welby
7:00 pm Parishioners

Friday, December 9

8:00 am Dean Firman
7:00 pm Rennie Family (*Special Intentions*)

Saturday, December 10

8:00 am Gloria Murabito
5:00 pm Special Intentions

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11

8:00 am Parishioners
10:30 am Frank Droppelman



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	

OUR OFFERING FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26-27, 2016

Sunday Collection

General Fund	\$2,952.00
General Fund Loose	\$166.00
General Fund Online	\$1,179.00
Total.....	\$4,297.00
Christmas Flower	\$63.00
Diaconate	\$10.00
Easter.....	\$3.00
Maintenance & Repair... ..	\$140.00
Military Service	\$29.00
Mission Sunday	\$10.00
Retired Religious.....	\$3.00
SVDP	\$1,938.00
Votive	\$47.30
Debt	\$95.00(YTD)
Tuition Assistance	\$673.00(YTD)
Endowment Fund.....	\$215.00(YTD)



In observance of the Holy Day, and so that the staff may attend the priesthood ordination of Deacon Michael Rennie, the parish business office will be closed on Thursday, December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday - Saturday December 5-10

- 7:30 am - Rosary, Church

Sunday, December 4

- 9:00 am - Bible Study, AR
- 9:15 am - Little Lambs, RBF
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB
- 11:30 am - Liturgy Committee Meeting, CMR
- 7:00 pm RCIA, CMR

Monday, December 5

- 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, December 6

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 6:30 pm - Blue Knights, Little Flowers, and Young Disciples, UH
- 7:00 pm - Pillars of Faith, CMR

Wednesday, December 7

- 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 8

Parish Office Closed

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 2:00 pm - Deacon Michael Rennie - Priesthood Ordination, Old Cathedral

Friday, December 9

- 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 10

Sunday, December 11

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 4, 2016

Sunday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/ Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday:	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS

Church Decorating Everyone is invited to help decorate our church for Christmas. We will be decorating on Sunday, December 18, 2016 starting at 11:30 pm. Thank you for giving of your time and talents for your parish. Lynn, Mary Ann and Helen.



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

Christmas Cards to Our Parishioners In Nursing Homes and Shut-Ins

Thank you for donating the beautiful Christmas cards. There will be a table in the vestibule with cards and addresses of our parishioners who are unable to join us at mass. If you would like to send a Christmas card to one or more of these individuals please pick up a card and envelope and address it, sign the card and drop it in the basket provided on the table. We will provide the postage. If you would like you may add a note on the card. This will add joy to those who helped form Epiphany.

'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. 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.

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!

Donation-Based Yoga Class

Join in a beginning-level yoga class meeting in the Epiphany assumption room.

Saturdays at 8am

For those who do not have their own yoga mat, I will have extra for anyone to use!



Our Lady's Inn Maternity Homes is having their Annual Trivia Night - Saturday, January 14th at Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and \$200 for a table of ten. For more information or to register, visit www.ourladysinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544.

Our Lady's Inn provides a loving home and an array of service supporting pregnant women and their children suffering with homelessness.



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.

Candy Sales The Epiphany Cub Scouts will be selling candy bars to raise funds for the purchase/construction on a new Pinewood Derby track. We have 3 different types available, plain, caramel, and with nuts. The cost is \$1.00 per bar. There will be a small table set up to the right of the church entrance near the small fenced area where the scouts will be selling the candy bars on the weekend of December 18th.

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!



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!

LifeTeen HIGH SCHOOLERS! Please join us this Wednesday, Dec. 7th from 7-9pm at Bishop DuBourg as we continue with our series - (*Immaculata - journeying with Mary through Advent*). Snacks and prayer are always provided. Please see www.saintlouislifeteen.org for more information!