

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

6596 Smiley Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

STAFF

Pastor

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Music Director

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Plant Manager

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Parish Secretary

Trish Nerviani
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MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday: 8:00 am

Tuesday Evening Mass: 6:30 pm

Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays 7-8 pm

(with reception for young adults after, hosted by Spirit and Truth St. Louis)

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday, 7:30-7:50 am

Sundays, 10-10:20 am & 6-6:20 pm

Tuesdays, 6-6:20 pm OR by appointment

Baptisms: Contact the parish office to Register.

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.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he
did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and
took his wife into his home. - Mt 1:23-24*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Phone: 314-781-1199
www.epiphanystl.org

Coffee Christmas gifts - I put a sign-up sheet in the vestibule if anyone would like to pre-order bags of Breviary Coffee as Christmas gifts. You can arrange with me for pick-up. I also have a lot of freshly bagged coffee in the vestibule if you want to grab a few now.

Confession times for Advent a lot of people make a special effort to come to confession during Advent. A reminder that, every week, I hear confessions on Sunday 10-10:20 am and 5:45-6:20 pm. I also hear them Tuesday 6-6:20 pm, Saturday 7:30-7:50 am, and often hear them 7-8pm during the Holy Hour.

The Rorate Caeli Mass this year will be at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, December 20. It's a beautiful Advent tradition, an entirely candlelight votive Mass in honor of Our Lady

Looking ahead to Christmas, this year it's on a Sunday. Our Mass times will be
Christmas Eve 5 pm and 10 pm
Christmas Morning 8 am and 10:30 am (no Sunday evening Mass)

On New Year's Eve and New Year's Day all Mass times will be the usual weekend Mass times.

As it gets colder, our coffee hour is only getting more popular. I'm happy to open up the first floor of the rectory so we can continue hosting it. If the coffee isn't on the porch on your way out, come on in!

Understanding the Mass - The Lifting of the Chasuble at the Elevations

Occasionally, you might see an altar server or deacon kneel next to the priest at the consecration and lift the hem of his vestment as he raises the Host and then the Chalice.

This habit has a practical purpose, which is to pull back the fabric of the chasuble and free the priest to more easily lift the Host and Chalice.

More importantly, the action has a symbolic meaning. In the Gospel, there's a story about a woman being healed simply by touching the hem of Our Lord's garment. When the servers pick up the edge of the chasuble at the elevations of the Host and the Chalice, we know that we, too, in imitation of the suffering woman who was healed, can take hold of the garment of Christ and be saved. You might even picture yourself near the altar in that moment, reaching out to touch Our Lord.

Here's the current Marian hymn after Mass

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli
porta manes et stella maris,
succurre cadenti, surgere qui curat, populo:
tu quae genuisti, natura mirante,
tuum sanctum genitorem, Virgo prius, ac posterius,
Gabrielis ab ore sumens illud ave,
peccatorum miserere.*

Fr. Michael

Christmas 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

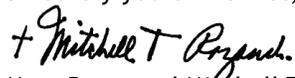
I wish you, your families, and your loved ones joyful greetings at this special time of year!

This past year has been a year of consultation and unceasing prayer as we continue in this journey to make All Things New in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. This strategic pastoral planning process is about revitalizing our parishes and ministries, and providing a more vibrant future for Catholic communities throughout the Archdiocese.

This Christmas, I ask you to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

I look forward to celebrating the joy of the Christmas season with all of the faithful of the Archdiocese. Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski Archbishop of St. Louis

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

<https://www.osvhub.com/epiphanystl/giving/funds>

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is the Hispanic Advent custom of "Las Posadas"?

Answer:

"Posada" is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. "Las Posadas" refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our "posada." As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

LITURGIES & SCHEDULES

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18

8:00 am Parishioners
10:30 am William Svancarek
6:30 pm Carla Bartolucci

Monday, December 19

8:00 am Joseph F & Kathryn Darpel

Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am Vince & Ann Villhard
6:30 pm Deacon Louis Peters

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 am Henry & Clarice Huelsmann

Thursday, December 22

8:00 am John Jankowski

Friday, December 23

8:00 am Balance O'Reilly

Saturday, December 24

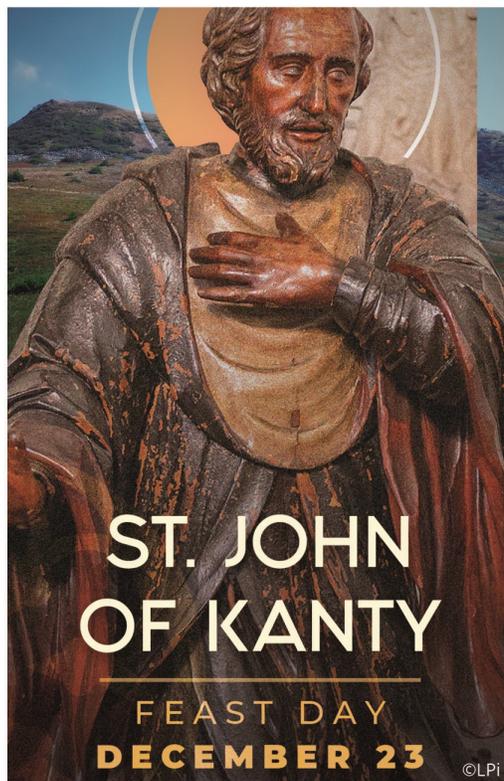
Christmas Eve

8:00 am Christmas Flower Contributors
4:00 pm Christmas Flower Contributors

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day

8:00 am Christmas Flower Contributors
10:30 am Parishioners



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND & SICK OF OUR PARISH

Michelle Hartzall	Judy Hof	Johanna Kleweis
Bill Hof, Sr.	Steve Runde	John Huber
Kris Pollman	Diane Hof-Little	George Burroughs
Sr. Carol Kopff		Margie Leuthen

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 17-18, 2022

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/
Lk 1:67-79

Next Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 (2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/
Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13/Ti
2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn
1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Please note: The parish business office will be closed for the holidays from Friday, December 23rd through Tuesday, January 2nd.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint John, sometimes called John Cantius, was born in the Polish town of Kanty in 1390. Not much is recorded about his early life, however, he was a bright young man who did well in his studies at the university in Krakow. He earned his doctorate in philosophy and went on to be ordained and earn a doctorate in theology as well.

He began teaching at the university immediately following the conferring of his doctorate in philosophy. Unfortunately, his popularity worked against him, and he was dismissed from his post on false charges. Saint John was reassigned to a post as a parish priest in the town of Olkusz, Bohemia. His parishioners did not receive him with open arms, and he was unsettled in his new position. But John did not give up, his honest care for the people of his parish eventually endeared him to them.

After a time, he was invited back to the university and he returned to teaching, filling leadership roles in the philosophy and theological areas until the end of his long life. Saint John deeply cared for the poor, giving everything but only what he needed to survive away. He lived an aesthetic life but was such an engaging man that he often dined with nobility.

Saint John of Kanty died on December 24, 1473. He was canonized in 1767, by Pope Clement XIII. In 1998, a new religious community chose the saint for their patron and the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius, was formed in Chicago, Illinois.



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Las Posadas

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Year-End Giving

Consider Making a Year-End Gift to Epiphany

As the end of the year approaches, we begin to reflect upon the many blessings bestowed upon us. The end of the year also provides a great opportunity to thank God for these blessings by gifting to Epiphany. The benefits of income tax deductions, capital gains savings and other financial benefits are significant advantages that provide an incentive to make a gift at the year-end. A gift can also help support Epiphany for years to come.

There are many different ways of contributing a gift. However, two of the easiest and most direct methods to gift are donations of cash and appreciated stock or other investments. You can also make other financially advantageous gifts such as real estate, life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, will/trust bequests and IRA/retirement accounts.

For more information on how you can help make a difference by contributing a year-end gift to Epiphany, please contact John at the parish office, 314-781-1199 or the Office of Stewardship and the Annual Catholic Appeal's Planned Giving Department at 314.792.7680.

Gabriel's Retreat Ministries

Gabriel's Retreats are specifically designed for any woman facing the challenges of any type of unexpected pregnancy.

Our Catholic-based retreats are no-cost and open to all women 18 years and older regardless of faith, marital status or pregnancy situation.

Openings are available for all following retreats:
December 27-29, 2022 @ Marianst Retreat Center
March 24-26, 2023 @ LaSalle Retreat Center

June 23-25, 2023 @ Marianst Retreat Center

To register or find out more about this peace and joy-filled weekend visit www.gabielsretreat.org or Email Shawna DuBois at gabielsretreat@gmail.com



READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Sharing the Gospel

God brought Jesus into the world as tiny baby. Jesus was God's Son. He was so powerful that he could have gotten anything he wanted. But Jesus did not come to earth to be a rich,

selfish ruler. He did not need a palace or fancy clothes. Jesus came to show you that God is with you all the time. He was born to be the king over your life. He gave up his own life to rescue you from your sins, so that you could be close to God forever.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me.

Mission For The Week

Tonight after dinner, ask your family to light some candles, turn off the lights, and sing some of your favorite Christmas songs about Jesus.

KIDS CORNER

In each series color the image within the box that is identical to the one outside the box. Make sure to notice all the details.

