

THE ST. LOUIS NEWSLETTER



First Communions in May

One in Christ

"One in Christ" is the 2023-2024 theme for St. Louis School. It is a theme centered on the Church and the Eucharist. In this time of Eucharistic Revival, it is only appropriate that St. Louis Church and Saint's Place participate in this theme. Together with parishioners, we are "One in Christ," united to each other in a common goal of serving the Catholic Church and the greater Pittsford community.

SLS Art Teacher Susan Jenkins illustrated this year's theme, shown at right.



Thank you for celebrating the birth of Jesus with us this Christmas Season! I am pleased to see so many people participate in our Advent and Christmas liturgies in our beautiful Church. As always, it is a joy to see your faces and chat after Mass. May you, your families, and your friends receive many blessings in the new year.

*Peace and blessings,
Fr. Mitch, Fr. Maurici, Deacon Pat, and Staff*

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Looking Ahead

Welcome, Fr. Maurici!

In July, we welcomed Fr. Joseph Maurici to St. Louis Church as our new Parochial Vicar. Fr. Maurici came to us after serving as Parochial Vicar for three parishes in Auburn and Weedsport.

Fr. Maurici grew up in Scottsville and attended The Harley School. He studied English at Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA, and entered seminary in 2014. Welcome to our community, Fr. Maurici! You have already blessed us with your knowledge and talents! We look forward to many more years of your service to our community.



Best Wishes, Fr. Simon and Paulette!

In June of 2023, Fr. Simon Atta Denchira, our former Parochial Vicar, was reassigned to St. Benedict's Parish in Canandaigua, NY. We had a farewell party for him on June 25. God bless you Fr. Simon!



Paulette Foggetti, Faith Formation Coordinator, recently announced that she is stepping down from her role at St. Louis Church.



She has served in that position since July of 2022, and was the Faith Formation Assistant before that. Thank you for your years of service to our Church!

Welcome, Courtney and Jenna!

Courtney Thomas is our new Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator. Courtney has been a parishioner at St. Louis since 2001 and has served as a catechist for the last six years. She has been a great addition to the Faith Formation Team!



In 2023, we are glad to have the CYO Basketball program under the guidance of Jenna Roote, our new CYO Athletic Director. Jenna is a mom of four, owns her own business, and volunteers at her children's schools.



Welcome, Suzy and Rose!

This year, our Ministry Center has been blessed to welcome two new staff members, Suzy Reddick (Pastoral Care Coordinator) and Rose Yule (Associate for Parish Life and Communication). Suzy and Rose are longtime Parishioners of St. Louis Church and have been involved in many ministries. Suzy served on the Pastoral Council, and Rose sings in the Adult Choir.



Suzy and Rose in the Ministry Center

Update on Dcn. Gerard

Last year, Deacon Gerard de la Fuente served as our Youth Minister and CYO Coordinator. He stepped down in the summer to focus on his job, family, and diaconal duties at St. Mark's Parish. He still serves our community when he can by preaching and celebrating Baptisms and Weddings whenever available.



Renewed Focus on Campus Maintenance

The St. Louis Campus is vast, including the Church, the Rectory, the Ministry Center, St. Louis School, the Manse, and Saint's Place. 2023 was a productive year in keeping our facilities as beautiful and functional as possible! This year's accomplishments include:

Church

- LED lights installed in the Church
- Stone masonry repaired inside the church, and main and north entrances
- New HVAC system installed (Special thanks to Sally Schrecker for leading this project!)
- St. Louis statue in Courtyard entrance repaired
- Carpet installed in Reddington Hall hallway and broken tiles removed

Rectory

- Roof repaired
- New garage doors installed
- New garage cement floor poured
- New water boiler installed
- Main water lines replaced

Ministry Center

- Main water lines replaced
- Interior painted

St. Louis School

- New security cameras installed
- Security gates installed
- Teacher's Lounge created
- New LED Lights in Gym



HVAC Project



Thank you to the following generous donors who contributed to our Church's new HVAC system:

Bill and Mary Ann Bailey
 Monica Bauer
 The Bertsch Family
 Helen and Ron Billitier
 Bill and Chrissy Carpenter
 Larry and Gloria Caruso
 Kathleen and James Cross
 Wanda Cusimano
 Steve and Cathy Danner
 Deacon Pat DiLaura
 Carol DiMarzo
 Brunilde Evangelista
 Scott and Nancy Fanciullo
 John and Mary Finnerty
 Charlene Frohm
 Thomas and Mary Galbraith
 Tom and Karen Hanss
 Robert and Mary Ann Henley
 Joseph Hicks
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 Peter and Pat Spinelli
 Richard Sypula
 Karen Taylor
 Marie Vasile
 Joyce and Louis Volino
 Edward and Janet Walsh
 The Wilt Family

**Donations still accepted & will be acknowledged*

Baptisms

In 2023, St. Louis Church celebrated 69 baptisms! Of those baptisms, two were RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Candidates who were received into the Catholic Church at Easter time.



Helena and Brennan Frank, baptized Aug. 20.



Chloe Lucy-Ann, baptized Dec. 2.



Amelia Frank and Gina Marie Montanari were baptized at the Easter Vigil, April 8, 2023.

Marriages

Over the past year, St. Louis celebrated 10 weddings and prepared four more couples for marriage. Please pray for all these newlyweds!



Bradley Allan & Grace Mattina
September 30, 2023



Robert Cole & Kathterine Edwards
October 6, 2023

First Communions

The Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our Catholic faith, and it is a grace for us to be able to receive our Lord's Sacraments every week.

In 2023, 52 children prepared for and received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. Congratulations! We hope it was the first of many Communion to come.



Partial Group Photo, May 2023

Confirmations

In the Catholic Church, Confirmation is the last of the Sacraments of Initiation to be administered. In the 2022-2023 Catechetical year, we had three different groups preparing for this wonderful Sacrament: the regular ninth-grade students; juniors, seniors, and college students who missed Confirmation during COVID; and the RCIA students. Altogether, 65 people were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Congratulations!



Confirmations with Bishop Matano
April 20, 2023



Confirmations at the Easter Vigil
April 8, 2023

National Catholic Youth Conference

In November, two St. Louis teens attended the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) with Paulette Foggetti in Indianapolis. The Diocese of Rochester sent over 100 other teens and chaperones to join over 11,000 teens from all across the country for a three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, and service.

Youth Group News

The Youth Group Holiday Sale was held on November 11 and 12 and was a huge success! Youth Group members raised money to support Saint's Place and future youth events. Thank you to all who participated!



In the Manse, a space has been cleared for a new Youth Room! While it is still being furnished and decorated, we look forward to having many great activities here in upcoming years!



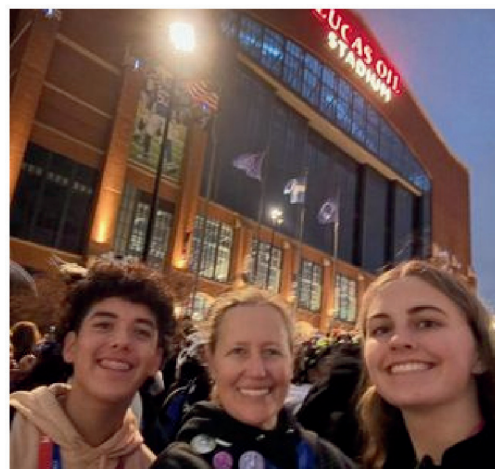
CYO Basketball

We are so glad to have CYO Basketball back in full swing this 2023-2024 season! There are 19 registered teams with a total of 206 players. Thank you to Jenna Roote, Coaches, and parent volunteers who make this program possible!



Annual Live Nativity Walk

On December 11, the annual Live Nativity Walk and Sing-a-Long took place at Powers Farm Market! There was a great turnout of families and Parishioners. Special thanks to Stephanie Honz, the St. Louis Adult Choir, and Acafellas, who led the event with singing and good cheer!



Spirit of Service

As our Faith Formation Coordinator, Paulette Foggetti has worked hard to instill a spirit of service in our Parish youth. There are always opportunities available for service hours, from serving and greeting at Mass, to delivering the monthly food collection to local food cupboards, to cleaning up the Church. Thank you!



Last January, youth participated in a Church clean up with Den. Gerard and Facilities Director Chris Cammilleri.



Students volunteer monthly to deliver donations to a local food cupboard.

One in Christ

The St. Louis School (SLS) 2023-2024 theme is “One in Christ.” We took our inspiration from St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, which says, “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” We celebrate that we are “One in Christ,” and through the celebration of the Eucharist, we are united as one Church. We use the individual gifts God has given us to live out our faith each day in unity with one another.



Theme illustration by SLS Art Teacher Susan Jenkins

Summer Carnival

The 2nd Annual St. Louis School Carnival, hosted by the Student Activities Committee, took place in June. The school community, parents, students, and teachers enjoyed a fantastic evening in the Church courtyard. Students played on bounce houses, participated in 5th grade-created carnival games, a dunk tank, face painting, and more!



5K Fun Run

On October 14, a number of SLS students, families, and friends gathered at Genesee Valley Park for the R0Ctoberfest 5K sponsored by Fleet Feet. This was offered as part of our school Fall FUNdrasier.

Students from St. Louis prepared for the race this summer as members of our Fun Run Club. Students, parents, and families who participated in the race did a fantastic job! We even had several SLS runners place in their age groups!



Mission of the Month

Each month, SLS students and families participated in some type of fundraiser or service-oriented activity, called our "Mission of the Month." In October, 3rd grade families collected winter coats, hats, gloves, and mittens for Saint's Place. In November, the 4th grade collected Thanksgiving food for Villa of Hope.



We are so proud of SLS students who are learning to give back to their community!

Apply now!

St. Louis SCHOOL

SCHOOL ADMISSION

Applications now open for new 2024-25 families

To apply, visit: www.SLSpittsford.org

Christmas Pageant

In December, K5 through 2nd grade students held their annual Christmas Pageant! Both students and teachers worked very hard to prepare the songs, dances, and scripts for their two performances. This year's pageant was called "Arrest These Merry Gentlemen" which tells the story of Sergeant Joe Sabbath, who is charged with keeping the peace in the sleepy little town of Bethlehem, where he likes things QUIET! Imagine his consternation when news of shepherds, angels, and a newborn King starts flooding his town!



All Saints' Day 2023

October was a wonderful month to gather together for many events, including the October Spirit Assembly, The Living Rosary, our Halloween Parade, and the All Saints' Mass. These events give our students opportunities to be 'alive in faith' and grow in their leadership as they participate and, in some cases, lead these activities. SLS students are truly Saints in the making!



So many refugee families helped in 2023!

2023 was our busiest year ever! Each month, we set a new record helping the many refugees coming to Rochester. In 2023 alone, Saint's Place gave away over 850 new beds, 900 new pillows, 1,700 sets of sheets and towels, over 300 sofas, and more!

Our fundraisers, like the Patron Saint's Campaign and the Annual Super Sale, were very successful. These, along with our grant writing and individual donations, allowed us to assist more than 1,300 newly arrived refugees.



25th Anniversary



This year, Saint's Place celebrated 25 years of "Welcoming the Stranger." Since 1998, Saint's Place has helped over 31,000 refugees from over 30 countries. From a small group of passionate individuals, the ministry has expanded. Now, over 100 active volunteers donate their time and talents year-round, assisting refugees to settle, build a home, and grow roots here in Rochester, New York. Below are some photos from our 25th Anniversary celebration with Bishop Matano.



Annual Summer Super Sale

Despite the overwhelming number of items that needed to be unpacked and priced, the Saint's Place team was ready for the Annual Super Sale in July. We reached our goal of \$150,000, but even more than the financial accomplishment was the spirit of cooperation and teamwork demonstrated during this fundraiser!

Saint's Place's amazing and dedicated group of volunteers is THE #1 REASON for our ongoing success. Thanks, too, to everyone who came out to shop and support us!



Following in the Footsteps of Polish Saints

Fr. Mitch, Stephanie Honz, and Kathryn McAlarney (former Adult Formation Director) traveled with 30 “pilgrims” to Poland in October, following in the footsteps of Saints Maria Faustina, Maximilian Kolbe, and Pope John Paul II. Pilgrimage highlights included witnessing the nightly veiling of the famous Black Madonna of Częstochowa, celebrating Mass in the Jasna Góra Shrine, spending time with Cardinal Stanisław Dziwisz, Archbishop Emeritus of Krakow, touring Auschwitz, and meeting Fr. Mitch’s family. To view the full presentation given by the Pilgrims after their return, visit <https://bitly.ws/35Sv8>.



St. Louis Church Pilgrims with Polka Dancers, Krakow



Our Lady of Częstochowa



Mass at the St. John Paul II Chapel in Częstochowa



The cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Auschwitz



Sunday Mass in Krakow



Traditional Polish dresses



Jean Parker in front of John Paul II Statue in Wadowice



Shrine of Divine Mercy in Krakow



St. Louis Pilgrims with Cardinal Dziwisz, personal secretary to Pope John Paul II



Fr. Mitch's sisters, mother, and niece



Fr. Mitch with Cardinal Dziwisz, Krakow

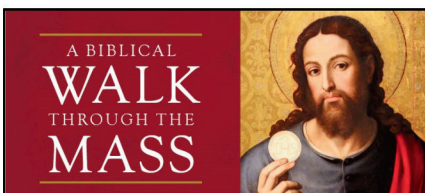
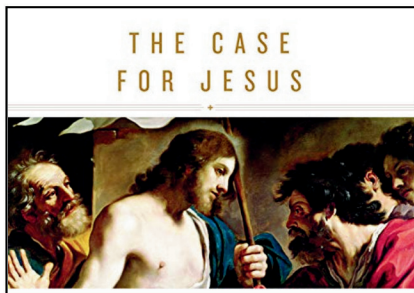


Stephanie Honz and Maria Leonardo (pictured) provided music

Stewardship Team Bible Studies

Our wonderful Stewardship Team has had a very active year. In the Spring they led their first Bible Study for the Parish, *The Case For Jesus* by Brant Pitre drawing over 50 parishioners. And just this Fall, they led their second study, *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* by Edward Sri, which drew another 40 parishioners.

They also collaborated with Mary Therese and Kent Friel in running this year's Annual Comfort Campaign, which donated food and money to Foodlink.



Stewardship Team members assisting with the Comfort Campaign

Easter Joy

Easter is the height of our Liturgical Calendar, when we celebrate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Easter was particularly special this year as we baptized two Catechumens and welcomed another six Candidates into full communion in the Catholic Church.

Thanks to Maria Leonardo, the Church was beautifully decorated, a visible sign of our joy.

On Holy Saturday morning, parishioners joined Fr. Mitch for our annual Easter Basket Blessing. Thank you to everyone who made the Lenten and Easter seasons so spiritually enriching.



Eucharistic Revival

Over this past year, the phrase "Eucharistic Revival" has been repeated. But what is it? The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to the Eucharist here in the United States. Each Parish in Rochester has been working towards providing opportunities for Parishioners to reconnect with this core aspect of our faith.

In preparation for the Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival, the book *7 Secrets of the Eucharist*, by Vinny Flynn, was given out at Christmas 2022 Masses, and a Fruit of the Vine about the book was held in June.

In February 2023, we hosted the Eucharistic Miracle Exposition of Blessed Carlo Acutis for three weeks in the Parish Meeting Hall. We launched the opening of the Expo with Mass, Adoration, and a special talk given by Fr. Jeffrey Chichester.

Two Eucharistic Processions were held, one in June for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and another in October, in collaboration with St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry.

The return of First Friday Adoration and Confession were among the many worship opportunities that were revived in 2023!



Marriage Vow Renewals

On February 11, the annual Marriage Vow Renewal Ceremony and Reception took place after the 4:30 pm Mass.

More than 30 couples participated, renewing their vows and receiving a small keepsake to take home to remember the event.

Special thanks to Mary Therese Friel, Chris Bouchard, Leo Rivera, and others who helped host this beautiful event!



Family Events

St. Louis Church is blessed to have many young families. In addition to our regular School and Faith Formation events, we offered families other ways to live out their faith this year. Before Lent, families participated in a Mardi Gras Family Pot Luck and this past November, we had a special All Saints' Family Party and Parade. Thank you to all who participated!



Parish Picnic & Corn Sale

Pastoral Council members outdid themselves with this year's Parish Picnic! Held on September 10, community and good food were shared by all who attended. With the playground, PFD fire truck, ice cream, and a bounce house available, children were especially entertained.

On the same day, the annual Helping Haiti Corn Sale was held, raising \$4,226 for St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti. Powers Farm Market donated the corn for the Sale.



Marian Consecration

Of all the events held this year, we can't forget about the beautiful journey of consecration to Jesus through Mary in which 62 parishioners participated. Their spiritual journey started in July and ended at a special consecration Mass on August 22, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary.



Newsletter Ministry Team

Rebecca Mitrousis, Layout Editor (Parish Staff)
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Suzy Reddick, Editor (Parish Staff)

Do you have photos or Good News you want to share?

Email us at pstlouis@dor.org or call the Ministry Center at (585) 586-5675

Upcoming Events

- January 5- First Friday Mass, Confession, Adoration | 11:00 AM
- January 5- Epiphany Water Blessing | 5:15 PM | Church
- January 6- Ladies Bereavement Group Holiday Luncheon | 11:00 AM | PMH
- January 7- Epiphany | Extended Musical Prelude at 10:00 AM
- January 7- Anointing of the Sick | After 8:00 AM Mass
- January 11- Youth Group | 7:00 PM | Youth Room (Manse)
- January 28- National Catholic Schools Week
- February 2- First Friday Mass, Confession, Adoration | 11:00 AM
- February 4- Anointing of the Sick | After 10:30 AM Mass
- February 7- Hands of Christ Ceremony | 7:00 PM | Sacred Heart Cathedral
- February 10- Year 2 Confirmation Retreat
- February 10- Vow Renewal Ceremony & Reception | After 4:30 PM Mass
- February 14- Ash Wednesday Masses | 6:45 AM, 11:00 AM, & 5:15 PM
- February 15- Youth Group | 7:00 PM | Youth Room (Manse)
- February 16- Adoration, Confession, Stations of the Cross* | 5:00 PM
- February 23- Adoration, Confession, Stations of the Cross* | 5:00 PM
- March 1- Adoration, Confession, Stations of the Cross* | 5:00 PM
- March 3- Anointing of the Sick | After 5:00 PM Mass
- March 8- Adoration, Confession, Stations of the Cross* | 5:00 PM
- March 14- Youth Group | 7:00 PM | Youth Room (Manse)
- March 15- Adoration, Confession, Stations of the Cross* | 5:00 PM
- March 17- St. Patrick's Day | St. Patrick Celebration TBD
- March 22- Adoration, Confession, Stations of the Cross* | 5:00 PM
- March 28- Holy Thursday Mass | 7:00 PM
- March 29- Good Friday Blood Drive | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM | SLS Gym
- March 29- Good Friday Service | 3:00 PM
- March 30- Easter Vigil | 8:00 PM
- March 31- Easter Sunday Masses | 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM
- April 23, 24, 25- Divine Mercy Pilgrimage

*Followed by Soup Supper in the PMH

Additional Masses:

First Friday Mass at 1:00 PM at The Highlands at Pittsford
Second Monday of the Month Mass at 2:00 PM at Heather Heights
Feb. 15-Mar 21 (Lent only) 5:15 PM Mass on Wednesdays and 6:45 AM Mass on Thursdays

Check the church bulletins for more information.



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