

December 12, 2021- *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Patron Saint of All the Americas*



Dear Parishioners,

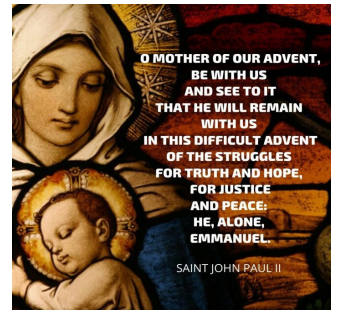
Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Blessed 2022! 😊

Thank you to each of you for being with us and supporting our wonderful Parish, School, and Saint's Place! I am grateful to report that we not only survived all the challenges with COVID, but we are vibrant *in all ways glorifying our God and serving others through:*

Sacraments, Sacramentals, and Education:

Since November 29, 2020 (a new church liturgical year), we:

- Catechized 292 (Faith Formation only)
- Prepared 63 for the First Penance
- Celebrated the 1st Holy Communion with 71 children
- Enrolled 109 in Confirmation Class (1st&2nd yr.)
- Enrolled 250 in Faith Formation
- Enrolled 203 students in Sacramental Classes
- Celebrated 263 daily/ holy days of obligation
- Celebrated 546 weekend Masses
- 248 Sacraments of Reconciliation offered
- Recited the Rosary together 243 times after Mass
- Baptized 41 people
- Confirmed 38 people
- Married 18 couples
- Anointed 59 people
- Buried 53 people
- Welcomed 88 new families
- Observed the Year of St. Joseph liturgy
- Brought back Lenten Friday Adorations, Confessions, & Stations of the Cross
- Continued to offer livestreamed Masses & events



Spiritual Growth:

We continued the Monday Men's Bible Study- the longest running early AM meeting in the history of St. Louis! On Tuesdays, we held the Sunday Scripture Study, also via Zoom. Faith Formation for children and teens started "virtually" in October and in person every other Sunday or Tuesday. We had Adult Faith Series of talks for the Year of St. Joseph and "Genesis to Jesus." We also ministered to our homebound and Senior parishioners thanks to our dedicated Volunteers.

Financial Update:

Our Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) is running a bit ahead of last year. If you have not contributed, please send in your gift before the end of the year. I'm doing my best to wrap up the campaign by January 1st, 2022, and **I need your help!** Lastly, earlier this Fall we closed on the sale of 21 Rand Place and plan on using the funds to help offset the cost of replacing our church heating and air-conditioning system. Thank you for your generous gift of treasure to our parish!

Stewardship Ministry/Saint's Place/St. Louis School/Parish Staff:

Our Stewardship Ministry was energized through Lent, Summer, and Fall. This year we had the 51st annual Corn Sale and the 40th Annual Ornament Sale for Haiti. Our Saint's Place Ministry continues to provide excellent service to the refugees and other local agencies but especially to the Afghan families who are arriving every day. The Annual Super Sale held in July brought in a record of \$147,000 and the Patron Saints campaign met its \$35,000 goal, with money still coming in.

At the end of the 20/21 school year, we celebrated Fran Barr's leadership as our School Principal and her dedicated 48 years teaching in our Catholic Schools. During the summer, we hired our new and capable Principal, Eileen Schenk! Today, our School has 253 students, and all is going well, despite these challenging times.

In September Deacon Dave Snyder was assigned to the Church of the Resurrection and Church of the Assumption Parishes, and we were pleased to welcome Deacon Patrick DiLaura to St. Louis Church. We also welcomed our Pastoral Associate for Stewardship, Annette DiPalma. Her position is new to the Diocese, and we welcome her dedication to stewardship!

On behalf of Fr. Dinh, Deacon Pat DiLaura and all our staff, I wish you a Merry Christmas & a blessed New Year!
I remain in Christ with special prayers for you, your Family, and Friends.

Fr. Mitch

Rev. Mitchell Zygadlo
Pastor, St. Louis Church



WHAT TO EXPECT AT CHRISTMAS MASSES

The Bishop recently reminded us that the USCCB Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance commonly holds that 4:00pm is the start to the evening. However, due to COVID-19 and parishes' need to socially distance and offer more Masses in 2020 parishes were permitted to hold Masses no earlier than 3pm for Vigil or Christmas Eve Masses. His reminder stated:

“Please be reminded: for 2021 and henceforth, the scheduling of Christmas Eve Masses in the Diocese of Rochester returns to the same practice as Sunday Vigil Masses, namely Masses of Anticipation are to begin at 4:00 p.m., or later.”

With that in mind our Christmas & New Year Mass times for this year are as follows:

Friday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve	4:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm
Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day	8:00am, 10:30am, 12:30am
Sunday, Dec. 26, Feast of the Holy Family	8:00am, 10:30am, 5:00pm
Friday, Dec. 31, New Year's Eve	11:00am
Saturday, Jan. 1, The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	11:00am (Sunday Vigil- 4:30pm)
Sunday, Jan. 2, The Epiphany of the Lord	8:00am, 10:30am, 5:00pm

Please be aware that overflow for the 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass will be in the School gym. We invite you to attend Mass on Christmas day if you wish to avoid large crowds.

With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, you may be wondering if there is still an obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, December 26th... the expectation, according to the Roman Catholic Church, is that all the faithful to continue to observe the Sunday following Christmas Day as a day of obligation.

We invite you to join us as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season with the Feast of the Holy Family on Sunday, December 26th at 8:00am, 10:30am, and 5:00pm!

