What Beauty!

What leads someone to take the first step in becoming Catholic? Ask 10 different people who have taken the first step, and you may get 10 different answers, possibly more! One thing that most commonly is included though is the impact and the beauty of the liturgy. Developed, modified, reformed over centuries. The Mass has a flow that can naturally draw people in. Celebrated well, it inspires, draws people together, lifts our hearts to God, nourishes faith, and leads us into communion, a precious gift. For many who have come to discover, embrace and live the Catholic faith, Midnight, or Christmas Mass in the night was the first entrée. The special sacred time of the evening, the balance of quiet and peace with rousing music as we are sent forth; the balance of Silent Night and Joy to the World – it truly is a rich, moving celebration. Christmas Day Masses also have that unique combination of peace, joy, silence and sound, the sacramental presence of Christ that we build toward through Advent.

Actually, Vigil Masses earlier on Christmas Eve are intended, in the Roman Missal, to be less celebrations of the birth of Christ, but to be more an anticipation of celebrating Christmas. Yet in recent years, those celebrations, like our 3:00 and 5:00PM on Christmas Eve have taken on a life of their own. Last year, we packed 1500 people into the church, the gym, the meeting room and the hallways at the 3:00PM Mass. Believe me, we tried to maintain beauty and peace, an inspiring celebration of our faith, and the birth of Christ. But it was so much easier to do that at 10:00PM, and on Christmas Day at 9:00AM, 11:00AM and 12:30PM. We have entered a new church year. Our Advent readings speak of anticipating something new, the beauty and wonder of God breaking into our world. Here is a modest suggestion to have a Christmas you will truly remember, to revisit what Deacon Dave spoke about last weekend. Try forgoing the 3:00PM or 5:00PM Vigil Masses for Christmas, and experience the beautiful 10:00PM with music that will be breathtaking, and a peace that is palpable. Or, join us for Mass on Christmas Day, with the beauty and peace that are so much easier to experience when finding a parking place or a seat doesn’t already set a tone that is hard to recover from.

This Sunday our readings are filled with joy, anticipating our Savior coming into the world. That joy will culminate when we celebrate Christmas, the Incarnation, a wonder, a mystery, the greatest gift of all. Give yourself and your family a gift by praying about which Mass you will come to. And meanwhile, let the wonder we find when we truly enter into God’s Word shape your heart and your spirit for the best Christmas ever! We need it! Blessings to you and those you love, Fr. Bob
## Mass Intentions for This Week

**Monday - December 12**
*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

11:00 am  Jerry Schmitt - Special Intention 100th Birthday by Ed & Joan Lennert
5:15 pm  Tom Ferland - Darby Family

**Tuesday - December 13**
*Zepl 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32*

6:45 am  Margaret Burt - Donald Procopio
9:45 am  Mass at Heather Heights for the Residents & Staff
11:00 am  Marilyn Case Fabian - Family

**Wednesday - December 14**
*Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25/Lk 7:18b-23*

11:00 am  Mary Jane Kunzog - Mary Shults
5:15 pm  For the People of the Parish

**Thursday - December 15**
*Is 54:1-10/Lk 7:23-30*

6:45 am  Dan Hurley - Peggy O’Neil Midgley
11:00 am  Rene Linares, MD - Family

**Friday - December 16**
*Is 56:1-3a, 6-8/Jn 5:33-36*

11:00 am  Fr. Raymond Booth - DeBlooom & Whitaker Families
5:15 pm  For Deceased Benefactors

**Saturday - December 17**
*Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17*

9:00 am  Deceased Members of the Lindsay Family - Family
4:30 pm  Samuel Tasciotti - Family

**Sunday - December 18**
*4th Sunday of Advent*

Is 7:10-14/2Cor 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

7:30 am  Edward & Irene Shults - Mary
9:00 am  Joseph M. LoGiudice - DiLiberto Family
11:15 am  Jason Palmer Lusk - Gale, Michael, & Kevin Nicholson
5:00 pm  Maria Hoang Thi Phach - Ho Dinh Tran & Family

---

### Special Intentions

We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week.

To arrange this, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

**One Lamp will burn for Maria Hoang Thi Phach by Ho Dinh Tran & Family.**

**One Lamp will burn In Memory of Jack & Paul Decker By Family.**

**One Lamp will burn for Victor Palumbo By Family.**

---

### Requiem Aeternam

**Fr. Elmer McDonald**

---

**Saturday & Sunday, December 17 & 18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>TBD/E. Sciortino</td>
<td>M. Lessard, N. Tirabassi, C. Hester, K. Hettrich, K. Darby, K. Gilman, J. Tirabassi, M. Wanberg</td>
<td>J. Brandt/P. Leon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Sunday Communion Service - December 18
*The Highlands - Pete & Gerry Shea  Heather Heights - Joe & Diane Salipante*
Prepared by the Editor of the Voice of the Church.

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Sorrow and mourning will flee

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10
Like a farmer awaiting rain, be patient

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11
Prepare the way of the Lord

Naming Grace

How can one capture the wonder of a people in exile returning to their homeland? What would even further fill Jewish hearts to bursting, theirs would not be a return home managed by a dangerous escape. On Cyrus the Great’s decree, the captivity would be ended, the Jews sent home with the vessels taken from the Temple, missioned to rebuild the Temple. Here is how Isaiah painted the picture. Harsh deserts burst forth in bloom, a royal road opens up, the lame dance for joy, the blind see—a joyful, hope-filled vision Isaiah has, and it would come to pass. About the blind and the lame being healed: these would have been excluded from Temple worship. God’s grace would heal them, that they might have access to the Temple and be able to join in thanksgiving and praise of the Lord. The words of Isaiah though have had, and have a currency far beyond the 5th century BCE. Ever since, his vision inspires hope, and has helped believers to name grace.

An Advent Virtue

Patience is definitely an Advent virtue, encouraged and lauded in the Advent scriptures, prayer and song. The passage from James this weekend takes patience as its primary theme, giving a concrete example to follow, the patience of farmers. They plant the seeds, but from there on, they just have to wait for God to send rain, sun, warmth and growth. (You don’t have to be a farmer to plant seeds!) Sometimes folks seem to think that a person is either born with patience, or without. Not so! While some may find being patient easier than others, it is in the grasp of everyone to grow in patience. The farming image is quite apt. Patience can be cultivated. Think of patience as the intended crop, impatience as a weed, and have a go at it!

This Must Be The One!

Remember? First readings at Mass from the Old Testament were chosen to shed light on the Gospel. The Gospel those readings are paired with then reveal deeper things in the Old Testament. So Isaiah speaks of restoration, and signs of God’s powerful intervention. The eyes of the blind are opened, the deaf will hear, the lame leap, those with no voice sing—Jesus lets John the Baptist know in our Gospel: look around, those things are being fulfilled and more! The dead are raised as well. And the poor having the good news preached to them? That may be the most powerful sign of all!

Looking Ahead:

Fourth Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14
He shall be called Emanuel

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7
Descended from David, Son of God in power

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24
God is with us!

FORMED.org

Did you miss last week’s announcement about the FREE Catholic resources available to you on the FORMED.org website? Go to our parish website and register using our free parish code KMFHWV. All the instructions are there and just listen to what one parishioner has to say: “I have been FORMED. It worked just the way you said it would. Good instructions. If an 84-year-old can do it anybody can!!!”

Advent is a perfect time to use these resources to prepare for the coming of Christ! Movies, audio, video programs, and ebooks all available anytime and anywhere by Bishop Robert Barron, Scott Hahn, Fr. Michael Gaitley, Jason Evert, Leah Darrow, Chris Stefanic, Jeff Cavins, and many more!

I Want To Be More Involved

Our new parish ministries resource folder has been in process for quite some time. Complete now, it is a folder with pages outlining the various facets of parish life, ministries offered here, ways to be involved, and contact numbers. Pick one up soon.

Page Three  St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY  December 11, 2016
Thank you to all of those who have generously responded to the Catholic Ministries Appeal so far! Please remember, the CMA is our fair share of the budget for the ministries supported by our diocese. Any shortfall comes out of our parish budget, so your generosity is important! Especially if you haven’t participated in the past, PLEASE consider making a pledge this year.

You are Gifted ... We often hear the term ‘gifted’ applied to those of exceptional ability or talent. Fact is, we are all gifted! Through God’s grace, we each have strengths, gifts, talents and abilities without which the church, the Body of Christ, is incomplete. This aspect of stewardship - using our gifts in service of others - can challenge us. We can see ourselves, with the Holy Spirit’s help, giving more of our time and treasure. But talent? What talent do I have? Spend some time this week thinking about the gifts you alone can share with the parish community and wider world - then make a plan to share them. Many thanks to all who have responded to our stewardship appeal! Next week we will update you on some statistics. If you haven’t already done so, please use the special response form to let us know about your intended new level of giving, and let us know if you are interested in electronic giving. God bless you all!

St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard, 890 Portland Avenue, serves an area of highly concentrated poverty in the 14621 Northeast quadrant of Rochester. St. Andrew’s mission is to provide the best nutrition they can offer. They also provide diapers, some baby needs, and include toiletries with each household order. Clients are offered recipe and food handling advice and access to free clothing, coupons, used books and magazines, and phone usage. Furniture assistance through the adjoining St. Vincent dePaul Society is also available. Most importantly, they try to build relationships with those who come in need.

To learn more about St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard, please contact Margaret Oberst at 338-1764 (Cupboard), 254-3093 (home) or email moberst@dor.org. Volunteers come in on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 9:00 – 11:30 am.

Thank you to all of those who have generously responded to the Catholic Ministries Appeal so far! Please remember, the CMA is our fair share of the budget for the ministries supported by our diocese. Any shortfall comes out of our parish budget, so your generosity is important! Especially if you haven’t participated in the past, PLEASE consider making a pledge this year. If you are moved to take an envelope and give a bit more than you already have, bless you!!
DEAR PARISHIONERS,

As Christmas Eve approaches and we celebrate the birth of Christ, I would like to thank each and every one of you for being so loyal and giving to Saint’s Place. Know that you are enriching the lives of refugees who have so little and want their children to reap the benefits of being here in the United States. How do you all show your support? Father Bob, our Pastor, tithes to Saint’s Place. Working alongside the Saint’s Place volunteers throughout the July Super Sale up to and including the “cut-throat” bag Sale on Saturday, there’s Father Bob. Saint’s Place and our mission is a pastoral focus. Many of you have been volunteers at Saint’s Place. You lift furniture, you tutor a refugee child, you spend countless hours at our Clothing Closet, you sort through mountains of donations and ensure that linen set ups and household set ups are prepared for delivery. We asked you to participate in our Patron Saint’s Campaign to purchase a new truck. To date, we have raised $17,000 and the checks continue to arrive. The inventory of sheets for the refugees dropped to a very dangerous low mark and you responded to our S.O.S. (short on sheets) request. We are hip high in sheets! You never let us down. In mid-November, our Christmas Angel Trees were displayed. Within the first week we received over 150 new purchased items for the refugees. The trees will be up until the first week in January resulting in close to a thousand gifts.

The Super Sale is in July and you come and support this very important endeavor. We didn’t raise $90,000 on sheer luck. We did so because our parishioners were ever present buying the much needed red enameled rocking chair or the twenty foot “lazy susan”. The money offsets the cost of purchasing new beds and pillows for the refugees, one of the cornerstones of our Ministry.

The words of our Lord truly reflect the profile of St. Louis’ parishioners: “Whatever you have done for the least of my brethren, you have done unto me”.

A joyous and blessed Christmas to all of you.

Sincerely,

Isabel Miller
Executive Director
Saint’s Place
Faith Formation Family Zone

Catholic Courier 2016 Advent Calendar

The Advent Story

Of hope and mystery, anticipation, preparation, a kingdom of this world and the next, and a king appearing when we least expect.

Heaven touching earth, the footsteps of the divine walking dusty roads as once they did in Eden, and a people, searching for a Savior, and walking past the stable. Open eyes and hearts, that this might be an Advent of hope to the world.

Just for YOU(th)

Middle School Youth Group
December 11, Image & Likeness of God
December 18, SOCIAL – Christmas Party
December 25, NO GROUP – Merry Christmas

Senior High Youth Group
December 11, God Made Human
December 18, SOCIAL NIGHT – Christmas Party
December 25, NO GROUP – Merry Christmas

This is the second year for the Catholic Courier’s annual Advent calendar. We invite you to add it to your family Christmas season tradition. Each day, your surprise treat might be a cooking and craft demonstration, an Advent reflection, a Scripture reading with religious imagery, a movie clip, a puzzle or some other unique seasonal activity such as the JibJab “Elf Yourself” video. This is a fun way for families and individuals to prepare for the birth of Christ.

Rest for the Journey
Diocesan Retreat for High School
When: January 14 -15
Where: Camp Stella Maris
Who: Anyone grades 9 -12
Why: Take an overnight to get away from the stresses of upcoming midterms and to connect with others. The overnight begins at 1:00 pm Saturday and ends with Mass at 3:00 pm on Sunday.

Details and registration available online at youth.dor.org/opportunities/retreats For more details contact Don (586-5675).
St. Louis Knights of Columbus
Next Meeting, Monday, December 19
6:00 PM at the Manse
7:00 PM at the Parish Meeting Hall

Our next Council meeting is on Monday, December 19. PLEASE NOTE: Our short meeting will be in the Manse at 6:00 PM then by 7:00 PM we will go to the Parish Meeting Hall where the Ladies will meet around 6:00 PM to set up for our Christmas Party.

Knights, Please RSVP for the Christmas Party. People attending are asked to bring a dish to pass.

Congratulations!! To Rick Whelehan, Past Grand Knight and St. Louis Council on making Star Council.

The St. Louis Council provided staffing for the ornament sale on December 3/4. The proceeds of the ornament sales benefit St. Damien’s Pediatric Hospital in Haiti. The St. Louis Council will also be involved in a drive this December to help Saint’s Place collect toiletry items such as NEW Soap, Men's Shaving gear, Deodorants, toothbrushes, tooth paste, and Cleaning Supplies, etc. There are 2 drawers marked "Saint’s Place" in the cabinet inside the North (Bell Tower) entrance. The items collected can be placed in these drawers. HELP is needed by everyone, not just Knights.

Men of the Parish interested in becoming a Member of St. Louis Council or with any Questions, please contact our Membership Director, Joseph DiPrima at drdiprima@gmail.com. or Grand Knight Dick Hilliard, cell: 585-943-1106, or e-mail: bwgolf@hotmail.com. Thank you, and God Bless, Dick Hilliard, Grand Knight

Blue Christmas
On Tuesday, December 13th at 7PM we will be holding a Blue Christmas’ prayer service. Despite the joyful sights and sounds of Christmas, for many folks, Christmas can surface some deep sadness. It may be the first Christmas without a loved one. Or perhaps one very dear to us has been gone for longer, but the pain of Christmas without them is still there. It may be some other loss, or broken relationship. Perhaps a loved one is overseas, and not able to be ‘home for Christmas’. Come to a peaceful, prayerful, healing time of prayer this Advent. Pray with others who know why a bit of blue is part of Christmas this year. If you were not able to make the All Souls Remembrance Mass, this may be a perfect prayer service for you. Or perhaps you know someone who could really use some quiet, peaceful, healing time of prayer. Invite them and bring them on the 13th. All are welcome!

Calling all teens! Our 3:00 pm Christmas Eve mass will feature music provided by our teens and returning college students. If you would like to join us, please contact Stephanie at shonz@rochester.rr.com. There is only one rehearsal and that will begin at 1:45 pm Christmas Eve day. Refreshments will be served and we will rehearse some of our favorite Christmas music including the Amy Grant "Breath of Heaven" and a special version of the Leonard Cohen "Hallelujah". We will provide a 15 minute prelude before mass of inspiring Christmas selections. Please consider joining us!

“Knowing Jesus is the best gift that anyone can ever receive. That we have encountered Him is the best thing that has happened in our lives. And making Him known by our deeds and words is our greatest joy.” ~ Pope Francis

Beginning Monday, December 12, the Pastoral Care Team will be delivering ceramic and rustic angels to parishioners who are homebound or in area nursing facilities. This Advent tradition is well received by the recipients.

Attention Pastoral Care Team: The angels will be available for pick up in the Ministry Center Monday-Friday from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. If this time is not convenient, please let Birdie or Shannon know and an alternate arrangement can be made.

For those of you curious about the matrix of black and white blocks shown on the cover of the bulletin, it is a QR code. The QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response Code) is a type of matrix barcode (or two-dimensional barcode). The QR code is read by a smartphone app and is linked to the Parish Support page on our website stlouischurch.org. That page describes the various ways of financially supporting our parish. One of the newer options is a link to a web page which will accept an online offering using a credit card. This will allow someone who attends Mass to make an offering online by scanning the QR code from the bulletin, selecting online offering, and entering credit card information for the offering. This is being offered as a convenience. Free smartphone apps for this use are available for all types of smartphones.
When: 7:00 PM Wednesday, December 14
Where: St. Mark Church, 54 Kuhn Road, Greece.
Details: We will provide an overview of the 5 year application and formation process and the time commitment involved and answer questions about ongoing ministry. An eligible applicant for permanent deacon formation is a man of strong and active faith who can demonstrate a record of service in the communities in which he lives, works and worships. He must be at least 35 years of age and no more than 62 years of age at the time of ordination, in good health, emotionally mature and stable in his professional and personal relationships. Men may be single or married. Interested men and their wives are encouraged to attend.

For more information: Please contact Deacon John Brasley, Director of Deacon Personnel & Director of Deacon Formation, Diocese of Rochester, 585.328.3228 or jbrasley@dor.org.
**HIP’s 2016 Habitat House is Built**

Our 2016 Habitat house construction is now complete. HIP, the Flower City Habitat organization, and many who had helped with the project celebrated this milestone Saturday, November 19 in a Dedication Ceremony held on its front porch. It was a happy and heart-felt event on a beautiful fall morning and provided a great opportunity to meet the new home owners, the Kareny Morales family, tour our handiwork, and mix with our fellow HIP coalition members.


Kereny was congratulated for successfully completing the required series of home ownership classes and greatly exceeding the required 300 hours of “sweat-equity” participation in Habitat projects. Traditional gifts of a Bible and Hammer were presented to Kereny along with a few maintenance supplies helpful to a first time home owner. She was thrilled to also receive a lawn mower, a gift enabled by the generous cash “donations” we received through our recent Thanksgiving Pie Sale.

Kudos to St. Louis for its many efforts to make our 2016 Habitat House happen!

---

**BEST HOLIDAY PIE SALE YET!!**

Thanks to St. Louis parishioner generosity, Habitat Interfaith Partnership’s (HIP) Holiday Pie Sale and associated donations raised nearly $2,500 in profits. At this rate, this year’s revenues, combined with annual pie sales for the next two years, will potentially yield $7,500 for our next HIP build. This will give us a good head start towards raising the $65,000 required to buy building supplies for our next house planned for 2019.

St. Louis can be proud as it again led coalition churches with its sale of 223 pies, exceeding previous year sales by a whopping 40%, and accounting for over 50% of HIP’s sales and revenues. Credit also goes to the following parishioners who helped conduct the pie sale: Louise Vanni, Rick Cusker, Mary Ellen and Curt Anderson, Kathy and Jacob Vanderzwaag, Kathleen Anderson, Chuck and Nancy Pelzo, Jerald Rachfal, Eileen Ramos, Birdie Proctor, and Rosemary and Bob Scholl, as well as Barbara Thomas who helped prepare Weekly Bulletin articles promoting the initiative.

It should be noted that during the Pie Sale, a number of parishioners thoughtfully made donations to Habitat, some independent of any pie order. And one individual made a particularly compassionate “Thanksgiving gesture” buying one of every pie and requesting the pies be given to those in need. These pies were delivered to the Pittsford Food Cupboard which helped us make good on that request, and helped ensure that 5 more families had a delicious dessert on their Thanksgiving table.
PARISH STAFF DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICES - Ministry Center
64 S. Main Street, 14534
(585) 586-5675; Fax 387-9888
MINISTRY CENTER HOURS ARE:
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

PASTORAL STAFF:
Rev. Robert Ring, Pastor,
ext. 225, ring@dor.org
Rev. Peter Mottola, Parochial Vicar
ext. 237, fmottola@dor.org
Deacon David Snyder,
1deacondave@gmail.com
586-5675
Stephanie Honz, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Liturgical Music,
ext. 251, shonz@dor.org
Bea Hack, Liturgy Coordinator,
ext. 231, bhack@dor.org
Pat Spinelli, Parish Visitor,
ext. 232, pspinelli@dor.org
Kathryn McAlarney, Pastoral Associate for Evangelization
Ext. 224, kmacalarney@dor.org
Michelle Andrews-Smith,
Director of Faith Formation,
ext. 233, mandrews-smith@dor.org
Lorrie Fairey
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant
ext. 230, lfairey@dor.org
Don Smith
Youth Ministry Coordinator
ext. 234, dsmith@dor.org
Laurie Martin, Finance Director,
ext. 222, lmartin@dor.org
Sally Schrecker, Operations Manager,
ext. 235, sschrecker@dor.org
Birdie Proctor, Secretary/Bookkeeper,
ext. 227, bproctor@dor.org
Shannon Toot, Administration Support,
ext. 223, stoot@dor.org
Barbara Thomas, Bulletin Editor,
ext. 236, bthomas@dor.org
Suzy Ward, Chair,
Pastoral Council, 746-5676
Brendan Donnelly, Chair,
Finance Council, (585) 267-7338
Debbie Hoeft, Chair
Stewardship Team, 734-9705
debbie53hoeft@yahoo.com
Elizabeth Ministry, 586-5675, ext. 345
Isabel Miller, Executive Director,
Saint’s Place, 46 S. Main St.
Phone: 385-6860
saintlady@saintsplace.org
In Residence at the Rectory:
Msgr. Gerard Krieg
Fran Barr, Principal,
St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place
Phone: 586-5200
fbarr@dor.org
http://sispittsford.org/
Dick Hilliard, Grand Knight,
Knights of Columbus
Phone: 585-943-1106
bwgolf@hotmail.com
Like us on Facebook:
http://www.facebook.com/stlouischurchpittsford

Page Ten
St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
December 11, 2016