Welcome to Advent! Be prepared: this Advent is as short as Advent can be. The Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve fall on the same day! Advent can always be a challenge. Our liturgical year calls us to spiritually prepare to celebrate the Incarnation with quiet anticipation. Meanwhile the secular world calls for the opposite. Ads bombard us: buy, buy, buy. Decorate. Bake. Christmas parties. Clamor. Wrap gifts. Full, full, full. Yet spiritually, its about becoming empty, empty, empty! We prepare for the coming of Christ by making space. Leave the manger empty of the infant Jesus until Christmas day. A great reminder. Christ longs to be born in our hearts. There must be a space, just like the waiting, empty manger. Only silencing the noise and distraction inside can create the empty, waiting space. While silence is always spiritually important, it is vital in Advent.

This silence is not just the absence of sound, any more than silent moments during Mass are just moments to take a breather. It is the silence of expectation. A standing on tiptoe silence. When someone we love deeply is thinking, trying to put feelings into words, our remaining silent, listening, can help them formulate the thought, find the words they are looking for. Our preparing in Advent includes that drawing deeply is thinking, trying to put feelings into words, our remaining silent, listening, can help them formulate the thought, find the words they are looking for. Our preparing in Advent includes that drawing

Several resources can help us make the most of this Advent. The Little blue books are a handy reminder: take time for the Bible. Reflect. Learn something new each day. ‘Spend some quiet time with the Lord.’ At Home with the Word is priceless, after all, we are preparing for the Word to be born in us. What better way than to find time each week to meditate on the Sunday readings. Sunday Mass will also take on an Advent flavor. Before we begin Mass, we will take a few moments of silence to quiet our hearts, together with a call to worship.

Before the call to worship, greeting, conversation, catching up can go on. Perhaps even asking “Can I pray for you today?” or “Would you please pray for me?” But with the call to worship, we stop. We acknowledge that through our worship, the space becomes holy. We stop the chatter outside, the call to worship encourages us to stop the chatter inside. The silence outside helps us to strive for silence inside, preparing us to truly hear.

One other new help. We will each get a book mark, with space to write after Mass each week: what one thing did I hear, see or experience at Mass that I can take with me, to be better prepared for Christmas? Focus. Simple. One key inspiration or thought. Write it down. Take it home. Let’s do it! We Prepare. Peace, Fr. Bob
**Mass Intentions for This Week**

**MONDAY - DECEMBER 4**
Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
11:00 am People of the Parish
5:15 pm John Connolly - Family

**TUESDAY - DECEMBER 5**
Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
6:45 am Jack & Paul Decker - Mary Jane & Family
11:00 am Dolores Butler - Katie Cross

**WEDNESDAY - DECEMBER 6**
Is 25:6-10/Mt 15:29-37
10:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Ctr for the Residents & Staff
11:00 am Barbara Fabian Zeck - Dad
5:15 pm Angela Tomczak - Tomczak & Catalanello Families

**THURSDAY - DECEMBER 7**
Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21, 24-27
6:45 am Norman Johnson - Pittsford American Legion
11:00 am Raymond Mahar - Mary & Family

**FRIDAY - DECEMBER 8**
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Holy Day of Obligation
Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
9:10 am St. Louis School Mass
Margaret Serio - Family
11:00 am Ann Brimmer - Family
5:15 pm Carmela Castrichini - Norma Corletta

**SATURDAY - DECEMBER 9**
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
9:00 am Josephine Sauka - Carol
4:30 pm Irene Paul - Asha Paul

**SUNDAY - DECEMBER 10**
Second Sunday of Advent
Is 40:1-5, 9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
7:30 am Arthur J. Hack, Jr. - Bea & John
9:00 am Sam Battaglia - Flo & Jack Battaglia
11:15 am Joseph Salipante - Dick & Marcia Hillard
5:00 pm Jim DeBloom - Family

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**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 reserve a candle, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

Three Lamps will burn for a Special Intention for Kevin & Lori Kane by Mary-Ellen Kane.

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**Little Blue Books:** Six minutes a day can change your whole experience of Advent! Read the odds and ends about saints and various traditions on the left side of the page, work your way through the infancy narrative of Matthew’s Gospel, and spend some time with the Lord. Be amazed at what Advent can become in your life! Available at church entrances!

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**Requiem Aeternam**
Carme Cupolo
Rocco Cupolo

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### Saturday & Sunday, December 9 & 10

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<tr>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Sacristan/LA</th>
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**Sunday Communion Service - December 10**
The Highlands - Mary Ann Monley
Heather Heights - Gerry & Pete Shea
Our Offering of Time & Treasure

Even in Death
Including St. Louis Church, School or Saint’s Place in our will is a wonderful way to support ministries that we value, even after God calls us home. Another way to extend the blessing: Let our family know that, in lieu of flowers, contributions can be offered to St. Louis Church, School or Saint’s Place. Upon the death of a loved one, think prayerfully – where would my loved one want contributions to be made in his or her memory? A beautiful way to let folks know what our loved one believed to be truly important, what we learned from them regarding what is truly important!

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<tr>
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On-line Collection

Month-to-Date $65,414.00

This Week’s Tithing Will Support
St. Damien Pediatric Hospital - Haiti

Next Week’s Tithing Will Support
Judicial Process Commission

Next week’s tithing will support the Judicial Process Commission. The Judicial Process Commission (JPC) is a grassroots non-profit organization that works to create a just, nonviolent community, primarily by working with individuals affected by the criminal justice system. JPC assists hundreds of men and women returning to the Rochester area after having been incarcerated. JPC helps them find a place to live, reconnect with family, obtain training or education, find a job, deal with addiction, and interact with a myriad of agencies. The recidivism rate for JPC clients is significantly less than the national average. The JPC’s budget has been impacted significantly by government budget cuts which make charitable support even more critical. The JPC supports the rights of all people affected by the criminal justice system and promotes changes to that system that helps them achieve their fullest potential. More information about the Judicial Process Commission can be found at http://rocjpc.org/

Ending the Year Well

We are deeply thankful for every contribution to St. Louis of Pittsford, no matter how large or small; we deeply appreciate your generosity and faith-filled commitment to our ministries! Many people choose to make year-end gifts and donations. If you do, in addition to a contribution to the parish, please seriously consider a generous contribution to our Catholic Ministry Appeal (CMA) if you have not yet made a pledge. We really would love to reach our goal before Epiphany - it would be an Epiphany! Here are two important things to keep in mind:

- If your intention is to make a stock donation, please contact Shannon Toot at the Ministry Center, 586-5675, for further details.
- Per IRS regulations, any contributions for 2017 will need to be received by December 31, 2017.

This weekend, December 2 & 3 there is a second collection for the support of Catholic University and other American Catholic Higher Education Institutions.
God’s Holy Word

Our Weekend Scriptures:
First Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16b – 17, 19b; 64:2 – 7
Rend the heavens and come down!

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3 – 9
We are called to fellowship with Christ

Gospel: Mark 13:33 – 37
Be watchful! Be alert!

Be watchful! Be Alert!
A Psalm by Any Other Name …
The books of the major prophets contain both poetry and prose. Sometimes the poetic passages are in the form of a psalm. This week we hear sections of a psalm of lament within Isaiah (full psalm: Isa 63:7-64:11). The exiles have returned home, but restoration is very slow going. Why? The psalm points out that sins are getting in the way of real progress (an old problem, we still experience!). Even virtue is tainted (‘our good deeds are like polluted rags’).

Words often matter when studying the Bible. Isaiah pleads for God to intervene, praying: ‘rend the heavens and come down’. Describing Jesus’ baptism, Mark tells us ‘the heavens were rent and the Holy Spirit came down.’ Do you think Mark wanted us to understand that Isaiah’s plea was answered?

World Peace: Competing Paths
We enter into Advent this week with Paul’s words of greeting to the community in Corinth. St. Paul often chose his words carefully, contrasting the false claims of Caesar with the truth of Christ. At the same time Paul was writing, an Altar of the Augustan Peace had been erected in Rome, to commemorate and politically support the notion that Caesar Augustus had brought peace to the world. Caesar was called father of the fatherland, father of peace, and even Lord. Already in his greeting, St Paul offers a counter message: no, peace doesn’t come through military victory and domination, but through spiritual victory and service. God is the only true Father, Jesus is the real Lord, and Jesus is the Prince of Peace. The true altar of peace, the one that counts, is the one on which Christ’s victory is celebrated.

You Snooze, You Lose
This coming church year, year B in the lectionary cycle, is the year of Mark. Mark is the shortest Gospel; he gets right to the point. This weekend we hear a brief parable of a man who travels abroad. He expects his servants to be on top of things during his absence, and all to be ready when he gets home. We too should watch, and be prepared. At the beginning of Advent, we focus on the Lord’s return at the end of time, when time itself comes to an end. As Christmas draws closer, we will shift to preparing to celebrate and experience Christ’s being born in time, celebrating his birth, and preparing for him to be born in us. The readings not only remind us to be prepared, as Advent unfolds, they will show the way.

May I Introduce: Mark
This week, be sure to read the ‘Introduction to the Gospel according to Mark’ in At Home with the Word. Michael Cameron does an excellent job helping us understand the world of Mark’s Gospel. It’s worth reading several times!

We Believe, We Belong, We Prepare.
Prepare in advance to hear Sunday’s scriptures. You will be amazed at how the Bible comes alive, how the Lord can speak to your life through the Word! One way to prepare: pick up your copy of At Home with the Word. Go over the readings before coming to Mass, so you aren’t hearing them cold. Give Us This Day is another resource, providing Sunday and weekday Mass readings, with meditations. Or Google “Sunday Scripture Readings”, and read the scripture each day in advance on the USCCB’s (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) website.

Preparing for the
Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1 – 5, 9 – 11
Give comfort to my people

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8 – 14
We await new heavens and a new earth

Gospel: Mark 1:1 – 8
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit

Extraordinary Ministry
Next weekend, December 9 & 10, we will commission our new Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and recommission all current ones at each of the Masses.

The Ministry Center will be closed on Tuesday, December 5, because of a Tri-Parish Staff Retreat at St. Catherine’s in Mendon in the morning and because of South Main Street and other local road closings beginning at 4:00 pm for set-up for Candlelight Night in Pittsford.
Powers Farm Market
Live Nativity Display

We’ll be collecting adult-size mittens & hats for the Open Door Mission.

Witness the nativity story as you’ve never seen it before, featuring a special performance by the St. Louis Choir.

Wednesday, Dec 13th. Open House. 7pm.

All are welcome!
Prepare your heart during Advent!

Prepare the Way of the King
By Dr. Scott Hahn

Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today, reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind — Jesus Christ. Find this audio under “Listen”, “Advent and Christmas”.

Come, Lord Jesus
By Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.

These Advent reflections by the abbess of a Poor Clare monastery, an accomplished spiritual writer, focus our attention on the coming of Jesus into our lives. There is a double movement to this coming; both our active preparation to be ready for him and our patient waiting for the Lord to arrive in his own good time. There is also an art to this simultaneous preparation and waiting, and no one knows better than beloved Mother Mary Francis how to encourage us in our attempts to master this art. Find this ebook under “Read”, “Prayer and Devotion”.

THE HANDS OF CHRIST AWARD 2018

Each year the Diocese of Rochester and Bishop Matano honor and celebrate graduating seniors who go beyond the normal call to their Church, Family and community. Please consider nominating a senior that you feel exemplifies the criteria listed below.

-Has consistently demonstrated a Christian attitude by word and example.
-Has been actively involved in the parish as well as their school or community.
-Has been a positive role model to their peers, younger children and adults.
-Is a practicing Roman Catholic in a parish in the Diocese of Rochester and attends Mass.
-Is currently a high school senior.

NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE FOUND AT THE SAINT LOUIS MINISTRY CENTER.

ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 10th

To register for these FREE resources, go to FORMED.org and use the parish code: KMFHWV. Contact Kathryn McAlarney for help or more suggestions. KMcAlarney@dor.org, 586-5675, ext. 224
Do It Today!

Take an Angel Home!

It’s sad to think about, but thousands of refugees wake up every morning wondering why the world has forgotten them. This is a reality that Saint’s Place can’t accept. We are devoted to changing this by going to great lengths to ensure that these people are not forgotten once they finally arrive in the United States. All year, we work diligently to establish relationships and partnerships with schools, companies, churches and community groups to organize drives so that we can achieve this goal of not only welcoming the refugees but ensuring they know we care.

The Angel Trees provide new items to deserving people and even more it brings joy and encouragement that the future is promising. Each angel represents the wishes and desires of a refugee child or adult. This special tradition that has been so successful here at St. Louis for so many years, it has brought smiles and joy to countless refugees. Please take an Angel and help us continue this caring tradition of sharing the true Spirit of Christmas, giving to those less fortunate.

Gifts should be returned unwrapped.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

Saint’s Place, 46 S. Main St., Pittsford, NY 14534. Isabel Miller Executive Director.
Saint’s Place Ministry Hours: 46 S. Main St.: Mon. through Thurs.: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed Fridays. St. John of Rochester: Mon., Tues., Thurs.: 9:15 am until 12 noon; Wed.: 9:15 am to 2:30 pm.; Closed Fridays. Phone: 585-385-6860. Fax: 585-385-3963 or saintlady@saintsplace.org, or www.saintsplace.org

Join us to Celebrate
Msgr. Gerry Krieg’s
90th Birthday!
Sunday, December 3,
at 12:30 pm in the
Parish Meeting Hall

“Every place I’ve been has turned into Camelot for me”
BEGIN DECEMBER RIGHT

PREPARING FOR THE CHRIST CHILD
Address cards for our homebound and shut-ins are available at entrances so that parishioners can reach out to them with Christmas cards starting in Advent. If you have a close family member or friend who has become homebound or shut-in, please submit their names and addresses to the Ministry Center so they can receive Christmas greetings from our Church family.

The Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass
Friday, December 8
9:10 am
Church
All are welcome.

Come pray with our school family!

St. Louis School • 11 Rand Place, Pittsford, NY 14534 • 585.586.5200 • slspittsford.org

The Lyric Chorale will present its annual holiday concert on Friday, December 15, at 7:30 pm, St. Louis Church, 64 S. Main Street, Pittsford. The concert, titled “Mary’s Song of Praise”, features Magnificats by Vivaldi, Pergolesi, and Mozart. In addition, the choir will perform a rousing medley by Mark Hayes that includes I Saw Three Ships, How Far is it to Bethlehem, Masters in this Hall, and O Little Town of Bethlehem. The men of the group will sing Noel Nouvelet, while the women offer arrangements of In Dulci Jubilo and There is No Rose. Come enjoy an evening of beautiful choral singing!

Tickets are $15.00 for adults and $13.00 for students and seniors. Advance tickets may be ordered online at www.lyricchorale.org
Fr. Juan and Don Murray are hosting a reflection group called "Word of Life", which is part of the Focolare spirituality. You are most welcome to join us on the third Monday of each month at 7:15 pm in the O'Connor Library in the Manse. (This is the brick building to the right of the main church entrance.)

(Meets this Monday, Nov.20)

The Word of Life, a sentence of Scripture, is offered monthly as a guide and inspiration for daily life. We read that sentence and the commentary (which is translated into 96 different languages and dialects and reaches more than 14 million people worldwide), and then offer our thoughts about how it applies to our lives. At the start of the next session, we share how we applied that verse in our lives as we encourage each other to imitate Christ.

For more information please email Fr. Juan at Fr.Juan.Benitez@dor.org or Kathryn at kathryn.mcalarney@dor.org.

Dec. 2 & 3
THIS WEEKEND:

GIFTS OF LOVE
Ornament Sale at all masses in our church Narthex and at the exits

Donation is $8 each in support of St. Damien Pediatric Hospital located on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Please continue to help St. Louis make a difference in Haiti as we have for 26 years. Also in the Narthex, on church bulletin boards and on the parish website is the list of generous merchants selling the ornaments pro bono until New Year's Day.

Ornaments are: Holy Childhood ceramic angels (embellished with 14 ct. gold stars) and wood crosses handcrafted at St. Michael's Woodshop. Let us return to the days when crosses were proudly displayed in our homes as a testimony to our belief in the saving sacrifice of Jesus.

Both Holy Childhood and St. Michael's Woodshop handcrafted these 2,200 ornaments, so their students benefited as well as Haiti.

SAVE AROUND COUPON BOOKS will also be available for a $25 donation. We are trying to earn a matching grant of $25,000. Please help us help Fr. Rick Frechette in his monumental work in Haiti. If you prefer to make a direct donation to St. Damien Hospital, please use the envelopes provided in the Narthex under the mosaic of Our Lady. NPH needs to know that your donation is part of the challenge offered to St. Louis.

For Those Who Have Experienced the Death of a Child, Sibling or Grandchild of Any Age, Please Join Our Ceremony of Remembrance Held in conjunction with The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting©

Sunday, December 10, 2017, 6:30 pm
50 West Bloomfield Rd., Pittsford
Church of the Transfiguration

***This ceremony is non-denominational.***

Please RSVP by December 7 to childrenneverforgotten@gmail.com. For more information and complete details, contact Elaine Deacon - (585) 889-2574

Sponsored by Rochester Kids Jeff Milano-Johnson Memorial Fund
**Parish Staff Directory**

**Parish Offices** - Ministry Center
64 S. Main Street, 14534
(585) 586-5675; Fax 387-9888

**Ministry Center Summer Hours are:**
Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**Pastoral Staff:**
Rev. Robert Ring, Pastor,
ext. 225, Fr. Bob. Ring@dor.org
Rev. Juan Benitez, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Juan. Benitez@dor.org
Deacon David Snyder,
1deacondave@gmail.com, 586-5675
Stephanie Honz, Pastoral Associate for
Liturgy and Liturgical Music,
ext. 251, Stephanie.Honz@dor.org
Cathy Malik, Pastoral Associate for
Pastoral Care
Ext. 228, Catherine.Malik@dor.org
Kathryn McAlarney, Pastoral Associate for
Evangelization
ext. 224, Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org
Pat Spinelli, Parish Visitor,
ext. 232, Pat.Spinelli@dor.org
Michelle Andrews-Smith,
Director of Faith Formation, ext. 233,
Michelle.Andrews-Smith@dor.org
Lorrie Fairey
Faith Formation Administrative Assistant
ext. 230, Lorrie.Fairey@dor.org
Leila Kaczmarek,
Youth Ministry Coordinator
ext. 234, Leila.Kaczmarek@dor.org
Laurie Martin, Finance Director,
ext. 222, Laurie.Martin@dor.org
Sally Schrecker, Operations Manager,
ext. 235, Sally.Schrecker@dor.org
Shannon Toot, Accounting & Media Admin.
ext. 227, Shannon.Toot@dor.org
Sue Whitaker, Administrative Assistant
ext. 223, Suzanne.Whitaker@dor.org
Barbara Thomas, Bulletin Editor,
ext. 236, Barbara.Thomas@dor.org
Bea Hack, Liturgy Coordinator,
ext. 231, Bea.Hack@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
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 Fran.Barr@dor.org
http://slspittsford.org/

Michael DeCocq, Grand Knight,
St. Louis Knights of Columbus
Phone: 585-314-8835
depesi@twc.com

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http://www.facebook.com/
stlouischurchpittsford

Page Ten  St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY  December 3, 2017