A Little More at Home

Whether an exciting place overseas, a religious site in the Holy Land, a local museum, a public garden, even a really good movie — one of the things I’ve learned is that visiting/going twice can really pay off. The first time we encounter something, we can only take in, absorb so much. But with a second encounter, we can see so much more, understand so much more, connect so much more. When traveling, I hate rushing place to place, moving on with ever more haste. It’s like passing through the kitchen, dipping a finger in this and that, and leaving – still hungry, missing what sitting down at the meal would offer. Then again, can’t knowing what’s on the menu and looking forward to it turn a meal into an experience?

The introduction to the Lectionary, the book that organizes our readings for Mass, has this to say: “The Church is nourished spiritually at the table of God’s Word and at the table of the Eucharist: from the one it grows in wisdom and from the other in holiness.” God intends to feed us, nourish us at Mass not just once, but twice, at the table of the Word, and the table of the Eucharist. Not only that, we have a chance to know what is on the menu each weekend at the table of God’s Word. Just open our copy of At Home with the Word, turn to the date, and there it is. Try finding a bit of quiet time during the week. Read the coming Sunday’s reading in advance. I promise you, you will begin to hear, see and feel things in the readings you have never experienced before. Messages from God that sometimes just go in one ear and out the other will light you up on the way through.

Let me give one example. First time hearing last week about beating swords into plowshares, I thought – that’s a beautiful peaceful image. I like it. But as I spent more time, a second time through, it triggered “what do I have to do with swords?” Ah, but Proverbs lays out pretty well how our tongue can be a sword. We can use our tongue to cut others down. But we can also use it to build others up. Isaiah, inspired by God, is instructing us to beat a tongue that cuts others down into one that builds others up. That’s not just a nice thought, it’s a very practical way to holiness! It is also a way to help building up God’s kingdom, by building up the kingdom’s people, our sisters and brothers. Remember that beautiful song in the CMA video, You Raise Me Up? Ok, it’s a mixed metaphor, plowshare and building up, but you get the idea! Cutting to the chase — please try reading the Sunday readings in At Home with the Word before coming to Mass this Advent. It will help you let the Word make a home in you! Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

**Monday - December 5**
Is 35:1-10/Ps 85/Lk 5:17-26
11:00 am John Considine - Louis Tasciotti
5:15 pm Raymond Booth - Bernie Eilertsen

**Tuesday - December 6**
Is 40:1-11/Ps 96/Mt 18:12-14
6:45 am Bruce Turner - The Savka Family
11:00 am Ed Monroe - Ed & Jean Lennert

**Wednesday - December 7**
Is 40:25-31/Ps 103/Mt 11:28-30
10:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center - For the People of the Parish
11:00 am Ray Mahar - Mary & Family
5:15 pm Anticipation Mass for Holy Day
Ann Marie Reilly - Sue & Jack Holland & Family

**Thursday - 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
6:45 am Barbara Fabian Zeck - Dad
9:10 am St. Louis School Mass
11:00 am Margaret Serio - Family

**Friday - December 9**
Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
11:00 am Rosemary Shelly - Connolly Family
5:15 pm Deceased Members of the Foley Family - Family

**Saturday - December 10**
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
9:00 am For Persecuted Christians
4:30 pm Arthur J. Hack, Jr. - Bea & John

**Sunday - December 11**
3rd Sunday of Advent
Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11
7:30 am Irene Paul - Asha Paul
9:00 am Reinaldo M. Perez - Wife & Children
11:15 am John McCabe - Joan Fama
5:00 pm Catherine Helen DiPasquale - Tom & Suzanne Puleo

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**Requiem Aeternam**

Nora Bartlett

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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 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
  In Memory of Maria Hoang Thi Phach
  By Ho Dinh Tran & Family.

- One Lamp will burn
  For a Special Intention for Jessie & Jeff
  By Grandma Ricci.

- One Lamp will burn
  In Memory of Father Ray
  By Marilyn Penzimer.

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**Saturday & Sunday, December 10 & 11**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
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Sunday Communion Service - December 11
The Highlands - Mary Ann Monley
Heather Heights - Fred & Marie Lapple

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Page Two
St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY  December 4, 2016
Preparing the Way:
Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10
The wolf shall be a guest of the lamb

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9
The encouragement of the scriptures lead to hope

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12
Prepare the way of the Lord

Lions, and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!
Though Dorothy, Tin Man, Scarecrow and Lion hadn’t spotted such wildlife in the spooky forest on their way to Oz, who doesn’t understand their repeated refrain? It helped the viewer know clearly: they felt danger, and knew they were threatened. Did Isaiah have a literal vision of a wolf having tea with a lamb, a leopard and kid goat napping together and a young lion and a calf being led around by a child? We don’t know. But we do know that the Holy Spirit convinced Isaiah deep down that in the future God has in store for the faithful, the Reign of God, when God’s will is embraced and followed, danger is gone, peace prevails, and even natural enemies are declawed. It is because of his insight into God’s will, the tremendous hope, as well as his powerful poetry that, behind only the Psalms (pure poetry, and evocative prayer), Isaiah is the most quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament.

Encouragement and Hope
Need encouragement and hope? St. Paul tells believers in Rome, and us, where to look, namely the scriptures. Remember, when he or any other author in the New Testament says anything about the Scriptures, they mean the Scriptures at that time, namely the Old Testament. So don’t give up on the Old Testament yet! Where to look for encouragement? Some parts of Isaiah are great – like today’s first reading! Did you know chapters 40-55 of Isaiah are known as ‘the book of consolation’? Many Advent readings come from this section, also known as Deutero-Isaiah (2nd Isaiah). A great place to find encouragement! While many psalms are laments (which can help give voice to our struggles in prayer), here are some encouraging ones for starters: 16, 23, 27, 30, 66, 91, 112, 121, 139.

Looking Ahead:
Third Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10
Be strong - fear not!

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

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

Maranatha
We pray in English. We pray in Greek: ‘Kyrie, eleison, Christe, eleison, Kyrie, eleison’ (Lord have mercy...). We pray in Hebrew: ‘Alleluia’ (Praise ye the Lord). During advent in our Psalm response, we pray in Aramaic: Maranatha. This two word Aramaic formula, transliterated into Greek letters, comes from the end of St. Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. It means ‘Come, Lord Jesus!’ That prayer/invocation wraps up the book of Revelation and the whole Bible, ‘Come, Lord Jesus!’

Prevenient Grace??
This week we celebrate the Patronal Feast of our nation, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A prayer at Mass will include an unfamiliar expression – prevenient grace. Mary was untouched by sin because of prevenient grace – a freely-bestowed divine grace that precedes any human decision or action. Prevenient grace exists prior to and without reference to anything humans may have done. The phrase might be obscure, but the meaning is important. Mary was preserved free of sin – not because of anything she herself had done or would do to merit such a blessing – but in anticipation of the redemptive death and resurrection of Christ. Mary was saved by Jesus, as we all are! Living and thinking in linear time, it doesn’t compute. But stretch to think eternity, an ever present now.
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.

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!!

Referrals are made by social workers, case workers, and other contacts from various social agencies, hospitals, etc., in Monroe County that work with new mothers in need. Volunteers are always needed at the Angel Care site to assemble items asked for, to make arrangements to have items picked up, to pick up portable baby beds (pack-and-play types) ordered from local retailers, and to wash and sort gently used items that are donated. For more information, contact Noreen Mancini by phone: 585-321-0236 or by email: eloisestelle@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your contribution last weekend, November 26/27 to the collection taken for the support of Catholic University and other American Catholic Higher Education Institutions. Your offering supports our seminarians who are taking classes, preparing to serve us as priests!

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 Birdie Proctor at the Ministry Center, 586-5675, for further details.
- Per IRS regulations, any contributions for 2016 will need to be received by December 31, 2016.
GIFTS OF LOVE

OUR 35TH ANNUAL PARISH ORNAMENT SALE IS THIS WEEKEND,
DECEMBER 3 & 4, AFTER ALL MASSES TO BENEFIT
ST. DAMIEN PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL IN HAITI.

Although the first weekend in December has been St. Louis’
traditional Ornament Sale weekend for 35 years,

You have not missed an opportunity to help Haiti
(while helping 3 other organizations in the process.)

The 2,000 plus “rustic chic” wood ornaments made at St. Michaels Woodshop and
gift packaged at Holy Childhood will continue to be offered for a $7 tax deductible
donation to St. Damien Pediatric Hospital until New Year's Day. Stock up for many
other occasions also: Valentines, Get Well, Thinking of You, office and grab bag gift
giving and stocking stuffing! (Please make checks payable to St. Louis Hunger.)

Where? Over 25 locations around Greater Rochester. The generous merchants nearest church are:
Chandeliers Boutique (corner Main and State), Pittsford Branch of Canandaigua National Bank (State near Library),
Pittsford Farms Dairy (Main near train trestle) and our St. Louis Ministry Center. Complete list: on church Bulletin boards, parish website and in the church narthex. Watch for St. Louis Haiti Team at Pittsford's Candlelight Night on
Tuesday, December 6. Any questions: call Marcia Mendola 381-6872.

The St. Louis Council Knights of Columbus is collecting Toilet Articles and Cleaning Supplies for Saint’s Place during December. Items needed are New
Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorants, Soaps, Men's Razors, Shaving cream,
Shampoos, Body wash, etc.; and Cleaning Supplies,
Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, etc. Please put any of the
above in the Drawers marked "Saint’s Place" in the
cabinet inside the North (Bell Tower) Church Entrance.

Thank You for helping us help Saint’s Place!
Members of St. Louis Council Knights of Columbus

Join us for “Candlelight Night” in Pittsford,
December 6th, from 5:00-8:00pm. Find our
parish table on the northeast corner of Main
and State where we will offer the community
hot chocolate and donut holes. Members of the St. Louis
School Glee club will be singing close by on the steps of
Tom Hartzell’s Law Office. We will have invitations to
our next series of Discovering Christ and will be selling
Christmas ornaments to benefit Fr. Rick Frechette’s
efforts at St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti. As the
Year of Mercy closes, this outreach to the community
demonstrates that mercy continues to be a part of life at
St. Louis Church.
**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.

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

The St. Louis Council will be involved with this weekend’s 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, tooth brushes, 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.

Knights, Please RSVP by December 4 for the Christmas Party. People attending are asked to bring a dish to pass.

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

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**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!

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**Have You Noticed the Angel Trees?**

There are still many Angels on the trees. Please consider taking one or two Angels. A simple act of kindness, like purchasing a gift, can forever change the lives of others. It is also a beautiful Corporal Work of Mercy. So many refugees are in need, right here in our community.

Every day they struggle to feed their family, heat their apartments and purchase clothing for the family. You can have a meaningful impact on someone’s life this Christmas by taking an Angel home.

Have you forgotten to take an angel from the tree? No problem. Purchase a pair of warm winter gloves for a man or woman, or a small men’s winter jacket, or a pair of men’s boots (size 8 or 9), or a soccer ball or a warm blanket. You do not need an Angel to ensure that a newly arriving refugee is very welcomed in our community.

Please return unwrapped gifts to the bins near the Angel Tree or to Saint’s Place at 46 South Main Street.

This past fiscal year, Saint’s Place has assisted a record number of 950 newly arrived refugees. Thank you for helping provide Christmas miracles all year long.

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**Got Calendars?**

At this time of year, we all seem to receive unsolicited calendars from charities, home services, etc. Rather than throw them out – please save them for Saint’s Place to be part of our household setups for refugee families. They are happy to receive a calendar. The calendars can be put in the Saint’s Place drawer in the north entrance (piano side) of church. Thank you!
**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)

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**Middle School Youth Group**

- December 4, Responding to God’s Call
- December 11, Image & Likeness of God
- December 18, SOCIAL – Christmas Party

**Senior High Youth Group**

- December 4, Open Conversation with Fr. Peter
- December 11, God Made Human
- December 18, SOCIAL NIGHT – Christmas Party
PREPARING FOR THE CHRIST CHILD

An Advent tradition at St. Louis is to make available addresses of those individuals from our parish who are homebound or in area nursing facilities. Baskets containing these addresses will be at each entrance throughout Advent. You are invited to take one or several addresses and send an Advent/Christmas greeting to the individual.

Each year we receive many, many notes of appreciation from the recipients who are delighted to have been remembered by so many people. It is truly a highlight of their Christmas holiday. Thank you for helping us to continue this joy-filled tradition.

Little Blue Books

Who would think that six minutes a day could change your whole experience of Advent? Yet 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 Luke's Gospel, and spend some time with the Lord, and you will be amazed at what advent can become in your life! Pick up a little blue book and keep it handy every day!

The St. Louis School Glee Club invites you to share in the spirit of the season with two very special upcoming events!

All are welcome to join our Glee Club for caroling and Christmas cheer at Candlelight Night in Pittsford on Tuesday, December 6th from 6:00-6:45pm beginning at Finucane & Hartzell Law Firm (6 N Main St., Pittsford)

Join us as our Glee Club performs the music of Christmas with a performance at Eastview Mall on Wednesday, December 7th at 1:00 pm near JCPenney.

Have you had a chance to read Studying and Praying Scripture on pages 14 & 15 of At Home with the Word? The Bible, God’s Word, is a tremendous gift to us. Pick up your copy of At Home with the Word at the church entrances. Put At Home with the Word in a special place. Unwrap and enjoy God’s gift!
Chrisanne Gates, Director, presents:

“Sing Joy”

With special guest, Celebration Brass.

Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Faith Lutheran Church,
2576 Browncroft Blvd., Rochester, NY

Tickets: $15 adults; $13 students and seniors,
available in advance at www.lyricchorale.org.

For more information, visit: www.lyricchorale.org.

Description:
This concert features The Lyric Chorale and
Celebration Brass singing and playing joyous
songs of Christmas. Included among the traditional
and familiar songs of the season are: Pinkham’s
Christmas Cantata, Chilcott’s Mid-Winter, Hang the
Holly, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing and many more.

Please join us for this evening of beautiful music.

DEACON INFORMATION SESSION DECEMBER 14

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 profes-
sional 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.

Friday, December 9, 2016

Southwedge Young Adult
Advent Prayer Crawl

on December 9, 2016
Gathering in prayer
at
7:00pm St. Boniface Church
Pilgrimage will include Prayer, Spirits & Feasts at
Caverly’s Irish Pub, The Beale & Tap and Mallet
with closing prayer, coffee & dessert at
St. Boniface Church

It’s A Wonderful Life . . . St. Catherine’s Church in Men-
don has put on a Melodrama in February for 35 years. This
December a Christmas offering has been added. Many of St.
Catherine’s own Monsignor Schnacky Community Players
have teamed up with the Bloomfield Rotary Club to per-
form a very unique adaptation of the beloved holiday classic,
It’s A Wonderful Life on Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:00pm in the
Monsignor Schnacky Community Center, Mendon, and
on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:00 pm at the Performing Arts
Center in Bloomfield High School. The show is performed
as a live radio theatre style production with holiday music
and live old-time radio sound effects. Adapted and directed
by a professional company, the New York City based Chain
Theatre, leading roles will be played by New York City
professional actors augmented by St. Catherine’s own
Players. Tickets are $15 per person and are available at
SaintCathOnline.com. You can also contact Laurie Newell
at 585-657-6901 or bloomfieldnyrotaryclub@gmail.com.
It’s A Wonderful opportunity to pause and enjoy Life
during a busy holiday season!
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

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http://slspittsford.org/
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