WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Today ends the observance of National Migration Week. It has been an American Catholic tradition for several decades, held in conjunction with the Feast of Epiphany and the Holy Family’s flight into Egypt to escape Herod’s violent massacre as he attempted to eliminate the rival newborn King of the Jews. It provides a time of reflection on the circumstances confronting the nearly 68.5 million displaced persons worldwide (source: UN High Commissioner for Refugees), including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. Our diocesan Catholic Family Center is urging parishes to reflect on ways we can join them in “Building Communities of Welcome” during 2019.

Of course, we at Saint Louis are already partnered with the CFC through the services of Saint’s Place. (If you are new to the parish and/or unfamiliar with their work, please take a brochure found at the entrance of the church.) Beyond Saint’s Place, there are many opportunities in the Rochester area for volunteering, advocacy and other forms of support.

People of faith are called to stand with immigrants and refugees as our brothers and sisters. For Christians especially, welcoming the stranger is a work of mercy, and one of the criteria on which we will be judged by God (see Matthew 25:31-46). Before there are national boundaries or ethnic identities, we are brothers and sisters in Christ, who was born, lived among us, died and rose again so that all might be lifted up to their full human dignity as God’s children.

The topic of immigration and refugees has become highly politicized in our country and around the world over the last few years. Sadly, in the US we are no longer discussing immigration policy, but the worthiness of the immigrants themselves. But the US Catholic Bishops, based on Catholic social teachings, have affirmed, again over many years, the need for humane immigration policies. We believe that a system which separates families and denies due process is broken and needs repair. Further, the Church supports protection, humanitarian support, and durable solutions for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons. These are not partisan political stances, but human and Christian stances.

What can we do in the area of advocacy for our brothers and sisters who are immigrants and refugees? First, we need to remember that immigration defines the American story, acknowledging our own ancestry, and the well-established life and freedom we have in this country. Even native peoples came from somewhere else. Second, learn as much as you can, from as many sources as you can, about our present immigration issues. Then engage our local, state and national office-holders in dialogue about immigration policy and values, avoiding the purple prose that demonizes people. Write, call, tweet, email these men and women to let them know what your faith and its values tell you. And of course, register to vote, and then vote! Despite the cynicism of some, voting remains our most powerful right and tool.

I’ll come back to this topic again, but for now, in honor of the Holy Family who were refugees in Egypt, may we give prayerful reflection to our brothers and sisters around the world who are in this situation today. Christ’s peace to you, Father Bob Kennedy
Mass Intentions for This Week

Monday - January 14
Heb 1:1-6/Mk 1:14-20
11:00 am Anthony J. Costello - Family
5:15 pm Catherine Aquavella - Linda Lord

Tuesday - January 15
Heb 2:5-12/Mk 1:21-28
6:45 am Alida Meyer - Lucille Newell
11:00 am Tom LeFleur - Breakfast Group

Wednesday - January 16
Heb 2:14-18/Mk 1:29-39
11:00 am Margaret Patanella - Charles & Susan Vacanti
5:15 pm Jared Adams - Cairns Family

Thursday - January 17
Heb 3:7-14/Mk 1:40-45
6:45 am Anna Mileto - Stoll Family
11:00 am Bill Cooper - Peggy O’Neil Midgley

Friday - January 18*
Heb 4:1-5, 11/Mk 2:1-12
11:00 am Communion Service
5:15 pm Communion Service

Saturday - January 19
Heb 4:12-16/Mk 2:13-17
9:00 am Jim DeBloom - Family
4:30 pm Rae Bernacki - Julie, Timothy & Peter Bernacki

Sunday - January 20
Is 62:1-5/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11
7:30 am Vincenzo Leonardo - Daughter
9:00 am Eric Richard - Lisa & Shawn Shaw
11:15 am Rae Bernacki - Tom & Ginny Mulford
5:00 pm Maria Hoang Thi Phach - HoTran & Family

*Looking to go to Mass on Friday, January 18? (St. Louis will be offering Communion Services this day—not Mass.) Try any of these area Masses:

- Carmelite Monastery, 7:30am
- St. Thomas More, 8:00am
- St. John of Rochester, 8:30am
- Church of the Assumption, 11:15am
- Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 11:30am
- Sisters of the Assumption, 11:15am
- Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 11:30am
- St. Mary, 12:15pm
- St. John of Rochester, 12:15pm
- St. John of Rochester, 5:30pm

Requiem Aeternam

Richard Brimmer
Joseph Nguyen
Richard Welles

Special Intentions This Week:
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.

One lamp will burn in memory of Mary from Ginny & Jo.

One Lamp will burn for a special intention for Marty by Aunt Jo & children.

One lamp will burn for Jim DeBloom by Family.

Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist

G. Boehm, L. Creary, K. Potter, B. Boehm, J. Potter, K. Maclaren, C. Check, M. Mench
A. Malik
K. Malik
J. Creary

7:30 am H. Fox, Q. Ferrante, F. Jeff, J. Bogdan, C. & M. Mauro
R. Dewan
M. Leonardo
L. Newell

9:00 am A. Murray, J. Holland, J. Kessler, I. Lanahan, A. Cabarcos, M. & N. Murray
B. Bullis, A. Best, M. Williams, B. Lisena, E. Ramos, B. Hack, M. A. Monley, J. Wihlen
R. Anania
E. Anania
Best Family

M. Cargill, J. Eisenhart, J. Walsh, C. Carpenter, D. Kendricks, S. Murphy, R. Willison, P. Molinari, T. Malone, L. Magguilli
K. Mor
E. Baker
D. Kendricks

5:00 pm I. Bird, C. & P. McDonough, JM. Paddock, C. Goetz, G. Catalano, C. Wormley
P. Lynge
M. Lincoln
M. T. Friel

Sunday Communion Service - January 20
The Highlands - Mary Ann Monley
Heather Heights - Jim Haefner

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Who is the Herald?
In our first reading today, it is clear someone is brimming with excitement, and has a vision of the amazing redemption God wills for the wayward. Speaking to the exiles, Isaiah experienced in his heart the love God had for His people. He could foresee the return to the land, new hope and promise for the people, God’s offer of redemption. When the Maccabees ousted the Greek ruler Antiochus, with his hated efforts to destroy Judaism, it is likely someone used this same message to herald the restoration of home rule, and of the faith. John the Baptist was another “voice crying out in the desert”, bringing hope to the people who went out to hear his message. But it doesn’t end there. This is an excellent passage for lectors to bring to prayer. Comfort, give comfort to my people ... cry out at the top of your voice ... say ... Here is your God. Not a lector? Think you are off the hook? Think again! One of the spiritual works of mercy is to comfort the afflicted. How can I bring comfort to someone who is afflicted this week? How can you?

Another Mercy Connection
Central to our second reading today is the message at the heart of our faith: we are not saved by our own righteousness, but by God’s mercy. But then, through our rebirth in baptism, and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, we become eager to do good. The eagerness may at times get lost in distractions, hurts, burdens or disappointments. But the spark remains, just as, beneath the cool ashes, there are live embers long after a fire has gone out. “Lord, how do I best fan that spark into flame?”

Stepping Aside
Today’s Gospel is a watershed moment, no pun intended. It marks the beginning of Jesus stepping on to the public stage. At the same time, it marks the beginning of the focus shifting from John the Baptist to Jesus. It is a point of reference in each of our baptisms. We’ve read the book, and know the end of the story. John didn’t. He was beheaded at least a year before Jesus’ Passion and Resurrection. Yet he somehow could discern that God’s plan required stepping out of center stage, and pointing his disciples to Jesus. But an easy thing to do? Think twice! As we pray with this Gospel, might John have anything to teach us?
Supporting Our Parish

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January

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About Tithing
St. Louis Parishioners commit 10% of our Sunday envelope and online contributions to support others in need, beyond our Parish operations. Our designated weekly Tithing Recipient receives $1,000. The balance of the weekly Tithe is reserved for larger commitments of support such as refugee services provided through Saint's Place, support of other parishes in need, our triennial Habitat House Build and emergency responses such as natural disasters. The full Tithe or 10% is distributed over the course of each fiscal year.

We are part of a diocesan family, which we support through the Catholic Ministries Appeal. To all who have already generously responded to the CMA, thank you!! We are currently at 88% of our goal! Please remember, the CMA is our fair share for ministries that serve people throughout our diocese. Chaplains at colleges and hospitals, folks at Catholic Charities, those who provide HR, IT, Faith Formation, and many other services to each parish are funded through CMA contributions. Any shortfall comes out of our parish budget, so your generosity is important!

If you haven’t participated in the past, PLEASE consider making a pledge to this year’s campaign. Please go to www.dor.org, click on Catholic Ministries Appeal, and donate whatever you can to the CMA. God bless you!
St. Louis, Pittsford, parish # 300.

The Pittsford Food Cupboard is a food pantry serving more than 4,000 households in Monroe County “Feeding Hope One Family at a Time.” The Pittsford Food Cupboard’s mission is to help alleviate hunger for families in need who live in a six zip code area between the City of Rochester, Pittsford, Brighton and East Rochester by supplementing 10 days of food supplies, ultimately contributing towards clients’ independence. Clients come from all walks of life, many just needing a little help to get through a period of unemployment or illness. Others need assistance because of inadequate fixed incomes, a disability or uninsured medical bills, single parenthood or an increase in household size.

This past year, the cupboard provided food supplies to over 4,000 households, totaling over 9,400 people. The Cupboard typically serves over 400 families per month. PFC relies on its staff of over 100 volunteers. The Cupboard has a variety of flexible volunteer programs that make it easy for members of the community, adults or students, to get involved and volunteer at group or individual levels. Besides collecting food, assisting clients, helping with office work, stocking shelves or picking up food, volunteers can “Adopt-A-Shelf,” hold can and bottle drives, or be a sponsor and coordinate food drives at their organization.

For details, visit www.pittsfordfoodcupboard.net. Thank you for your prayers, your food donations, and your critical financial support.

St. Louis Church provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy—just visit our website, stlouischurch.org/parish-support, or scan the QR code on the front of the bulletin. When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish bank account. And you won’t have to remember to write a check or stop by the ATM on Sundays! If you still want to place something in the offertory basket, just pick up one of our “I give Online” cards on your way into church and use that at offertory time.
Celebrate your Catholic family

Strong Catholic families strengthen our neighborhoods, communities and the entire Church. "Christian marriage and family build up the Church" (Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, #15). Celebrate yours.

Catholic parents are instruments of God’s love. Children learn about God’s love from their parents and we help to shape their relationship with God. There are few jobs that are as important.

Catholic families breed respect. Our children know they are valued because we care about their behavior and hold them accountable as followers of Christ.

Catholic parents provide structure and boundaries and enforce family rules. We help our youngsters develop good manners and respectful behavior.

Catholic families practice modesty. Catholics are called to control passions and avoid public and private sin. Christian parents have to make tough choices about how children dress and act, so we encourage children to behave in a manner befitting a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Catholic parents model self-sacrifice. We set aside our personal desires for the good of our family, our parish, and our community.

Scripture Lesson

Jesus proclaims the Good News

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. Jesus began by reading the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah, who would come to "bring glad tidings to the poor." Then, to the surprise of his listeners, he said, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." He announced he was the long-awaited Messiah.

They must have been shocked. They were expecting the Messiah to be a worldly king who would overthrow the Romans. They didn’t expect the Messiah to come from humble Nazareth and be killed by the Romans. And they definitely didn’t expect him to rise from the dead.

What can a parent do? The Good News is that God came to save us, heal us, and set us free from sin. He wants us ready for love and eternal life. There are people who need to hear the Good News of God’s saving love.

Teach children that by helping those in need, praying for them, and doing what’s right even when it’s hard, they are sharing the Good News.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 4 – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1821). Wife, then widow, then Catholic convert, St. Elizabeth was rejected by her wealthy Episcopalian family and friends. To support herself and her children, she opened a Catholic school for girls near Baltimore. Eventually, she founded the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1809, who ran schools and orphanages, marking the beginning of the U.S. parochial school system.

Jan. 25 – Conversion of St. Paul. In the Acts of the Apostles, we read about how Saul persecuted the Christians until Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he said (Acts 9:5). After that, Saul became Paul and traveled around the known world, preaching the faith.

Jan. 26 – Sts. Timothy and Titus (1st century). Timothy was a convert of Paul's and later became his trusted friend joining him in apostolic work. Titus was also a friend of Paul's who served the early Church as a peacemaker and as administrator to a community on Crete.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.partnersinfaith.com
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
January 13, 2019
Saint’s Place needs volunteers to assist at 46 South Main Street and our warehouse. This job requiring some lifting. Hours are flexible. We are open Mondays – Thursdays from 8am until 4pm. We are closed on Fridays. We welcome assistance on any one of those days that works for you!

We are also in dire need of volunteers to assist at the Clothing Closet at Saint John of Rochester. Hours at Clothing Closet are 9 am until 1pm, Mondays - Thursdays. We are closed on Fridays. Your assistance on any day of the week that works for you would be a great help!

If you can help, please contact Michele Quinn or Isabel Miller at 385-6860 and we would be more than happy to give you a tour of our operations.

You won’t be disappointed. You can immediately make a real difference in the lives of the refugees. Rewarding work, flexible hours, and a real sense of teamwork are awaiting your call.

Currently, we are unable to accept donations on the weekends. Please do not leave any items on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays until further notice. We regret any inconvenience these closures may cause you.

We are accepting donations Mondays through Thursdays. Our warehouse space is limited, and unfortunately, we have many items that are unusable for refugee homes. Refugee homes are small and only basic items are needed.

We are currently looking for additional warehouse space at a very reasonable cost (free would even be better). This is a short term need from February until early July when we hold our Annual Super Sale. If you know of any available space, please let us know.
ST. LOUIS SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE
Thursday, January 24
9:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
Meet our teachers, visit our classrooms, and tour our campus!

PRE-SCHOOL
- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Small Teacher-to-Student Ratio
- Flexible Scheduling with Many Scheduling Options
- Hands-on Exploration and Discovery

EARLY K
- Provides a more gradual transition between PK and K
- More personalized experience
- Follows regular school hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Introduces K curriculum built on comprehensive preschool elements

K-GRADE 5
- STEM-Enhanced Curriculum
- Technology Rich Classrooms
- Small Class Size
- Many Enrichment Offerings

ABOUT US
- Faith-Based Curriculum
- High Academic Standards
- State Certified Educators
- Affordable Tuition
- Onsite Extended Care for All Students

To learn more, call us at 585-586-5200 or visit SLSPittsford.org.

St. Louis School  11 Rand Place  Pittsford, NY 14534
**Opportunities to Grow Spiritually**

**Starts this Tuesday!**
Join us for a New Bible Study on the Sacraments!

*The Bible and the Sacraments* is based on the work of world-renowned theologian Dr. Scott Hahn. Presented by popular speaker and author Matthew Leonard, the deep mysteries and truths of the sacraments come alive in a whole new way.

When: Tuesdays, starting Jan. 15th
Time: Choose afternoons 1:00-2:30 or evenings 7:15-8:45
Where: Parish Meeting Hall, St. Louis Church
Cost: $20 for participant workbook only or $45 for the participant kit which includes two supplemental books.

Please contact Kathryn to order your supplies.

Register with Kathryn at 586-5675, ext. 224 or Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org

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**How’s Your Faith Fitness?**

Here’s a plan to add strength and endurance to your spiritual life!

Can’t join our adult formation classes? Here’s a great study about the basics of the Catholic faith you can do at home through FORMED.org:

When you’re logged on FORMED.org, click “Study” then “Faith Formation” and you’ll find Symbolon: Knowing the Faith.

This week, watch Session 1, “The Journey of Faith: Trinity, Faith, & the God Who is Love”.

New to FORMED.org? Just go to stlouischurch.formed.org and create a free account!

Contact Kathryn at Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org or call 586-5675, ext. 224 for help! Don’t forget to end your workout with a little cardio cool down!
In solidarity with the National March for Life (Jan. 17-18), St. Louis Knights of Columbus will be selling CHOCOLATE ROSES at all masses on Jan. 19-20.

Proceeds will support Project Rachel, one of our local Life Issues programs. Please support LIFE and share a treat with someone you know!

COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, January 21 at 6:45 pm
Parish Meeting Hall

The Knights of Columbus will be involved with the annual chocolate rose sale next weekend (see above.)

It is great to be a part of an organization that is strong in our church and community.

Men of the Parish interested in becoming a Member of the St. Louis Council or have any questions please contact the Membership Director: Joseph Diprima, drdiprima@gmail.com. Or Grand Knight Michael DeCocq: 585-314-8835, depepsi@twc.com

Thank you, and God Bless,
Michael DeCocq, GK

Have you opened your Christmas gift yet?

Thanks to the generosity of three families and the Dynamic Catholic book program, we handed out close to 1,800 books to our St. Louis parish family! May God bless them for their generosity! Now WE need to dive in!

“Only God knows the good that can come about by reading one good Catholic book.” –John Bosco

Please share your reactions to this book in upcoming bulletins by emailing Kathryn.

And, if you would like to sponsor this gratifying tradition in the future, please contact Kathryn McAlarney at: 586-5675, ext. 224 or Kathryn.McAlarney@dor.org.

Pittsford-Mendon Tri-Parish:
Care of God’s Creation Ministry

All are welcome, from teens to the “well seasoned” to the “Green Catholics.” If you are concerned about the environment, join us at our January 17 Meeting, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm at the St. Louis Parish Meeting Hall.

Contact Stephen Heinzelman at sheinzel@gmail.com or Gerry Gacioch at onegreendoc@aol.com.

We meet & rotate the 3rd Wednesday of each month. February’s meeting will be at St. Catherine’s.

Comunita Cenacolo hopereborn.org
A Catholic program to overcome substance abuse. For more info call 330-0206 or 624-3443.
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:
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Parochial Administrator
ext. 225, Fr.Robert.Kennedy@dor.org

Rev. Juan Benitez, Parochial Vicar
Fr.Juan.Benitez@dor.org

Deacon David Snyder
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Lorrie Fairey,
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Bea Hack, Liturgy Coordinator
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Stephanie Honz, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Liturgical Music
ext. 251, Stephanie.Honz@dor.org

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Shannon Toot, Accounting & Media Admin
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Shannon Toot, Bulletin Editor
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James Schnell, Chair,
Finance Council, 267-7295

Debbie Hoeft, Chair
Stewardship Team, 734-9705
debbie53hoeft@yahoo.com

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saintlady@saintsplace.org

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www.slspittsford.org

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

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www.facebook.com/stlouischurchpittsford

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St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
January 13, 2019