We believe. We belong.

This weekend, the three scripture readings tie together well. You might think that would make Bible study, like Tuesday mornings, much easier. Guess again! Were the basic message more in tune with the world we live and breathe in, or related to only one narrow aspect of life, that would be true. However, the message is profoundly counterculture (it always has been), and impacts how we think, what we do, and everything in between.

Zephaniah’s message: some will be sheltered on the day of judgement. But while our culture may present a different message, Zephaniah is clear. Those sheltered will not be the proud, the strong and the powerful. It will be a remnant, humble and lowly. What is God thinking?? Many of the prophets, communicating God’s Word, were singing, - our nation fell because of pride and arrogance.

Paul brings the message to Corinth. Those called to saving faith, who responded, were not those wise, noble and powerful by human standards. Paul puts it bluntly: “God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God.” Boasting is a bad thing?

Next we have the Beatitudes. The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek …. These are the one’s favored by God? Right relationships are more important than results? Mercy is the order of the day, not judgement, punishment, retribution and deterrence? Clean of heart, peacemakers?

How do we live these values? Exploring many avenues and on ramps, one thing became clear. Rare is the person who, in a one day ‘conversion’ event, is suddenly at home living the beatitudes! We can’t extricate ourselves from a culture headed in the opposite direction that easily. It is a life-long process, and not just our life-span in this world. Our Catholic faith tells us that God isn’t finished with us even when we take our last breath on earth. Here we breath air laced with the poisons of pride, arrogance, greed, and each of the deadly sins. Being perfected will begin at a much faster pace when we begin breathing the pure air of the life to come.

In God’s Word: dependence is not only not an evil. Depending on God leads us into the life of grace. A quote from Proverbs (30:7-9) seemed helpful: “O God, I beg two favors from you; let me have them before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may steal and thus insult God’s holy name.” We talked about what we do with all God has given us. How much do we truly need? How do we share what we have been given? All good to ponder, and we did! Peace, Fr. Bob
**Mass Intentions for This Week**

**MONDAY - JANUARY 30**
Heb 11:32-40/Mk 5:1-20  
9:10 am St. Louis School Mass for Catholic Schools Awareness Week  
11:00 am Ellie & Al Caschette - Family  
5:15 pm Anthony Vodgak - Susan & Gerry Rooney

**FIRST FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 3**  
Heb 13:1-8/Mk 6:14-29  
11:00 am Christopher Gingras - Tom & Sylvia Viti  
1:00 pm Mass at The Highlands  
5:15 pm David Schimizzi - Aunt Jo & Family

**TUESDAY - JANUARY 31**  
Heb 12:1-4/Mk 5:21-43  
6:45 am Richard King - Jeff Mason  
11:00 am John Bernacki, Sr. - Betsy DeBloom

**SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 4**  
Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Mk 6:30-34  
9:00 am For Our Deceased Benefactors  
4:30 pm Eileen M. Russo - Mr. & Mrs. Michael Egan

**WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 1**  
Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Mk 6:1-6  
10:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center for the Residents & Staff  
11:00 am Jack Garrity - Don Smith  
5:15 pm Joseph Cameron - Hinish Family

**SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 5**  
World Day for Consecrated Life  
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Is 58:7-10/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16  
7:30 am Steven Messina - Mary Lou Radford  
9:00 am Christopher Storey & The Hespen Family - Doug & Mary Ellen Weins  
11:15 am Nelly & Patrick O’Connor - Sons & Grandchildren  
5:00 pm Daniel Hurley - Sue’s Sewing Group

**THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 2**  
Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32  
6:45 am For the People of the Parish  
11:00 am John Bernacki, Sr. - Peggy O’Neil Midgley

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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.

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**Saturday & Sunday, February 4 & 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of The Eucharist</th>
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<td>J. Pike</td>
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<td>AJ. Romeo</td>
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<td>L. Nunn</td>
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<td>K. Mor</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>P. Molinari</td>
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<td>E. Sciotrino</td>
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Sunday Communion Service - February 5  
The Highlands - Mary Ann Monley  
Heather Heights - Richard Caruso

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**Requiem Aeternam**

*John Menihan, Jr.*
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12 – 13
Seek justice, seek humility

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 31
God chose the weak to shame the strong

Gospel: Matthew 5:1 – 12a
Blessed are the poor in spirit

Blessings and Curses

Pick an important biblical message, or biblical means of communicating God’s will, and we are likely to find a trajectory. First, the seeds of the message, or of the form of communicating. Next, the development. Finally, the last word before the canon (list of accepted books) was closed.

One means of communicating found in the prophets, the prophetic oracle, might be traced to the covenants. Covenants in the Bible, and covenants in general at the time included blessings and curses. Abide by the covenant, these blessings would follow. Violate the covenant, and these disasters will ensue. With the prophets, that expands to more detailed oracles of salvation, and oracles of judgement (sometimes against enemies, often against those who disobeyed the covenant). Into the New Testament, beatitudes are like oracles of salvation; Jesus’ judgement of some of the Pharisees is a form of curse.

So much for means of communicating. Message? Early on in the Old Testament, we find the message that while the proud who misuse power and gather wealth unjustly will be punished, the lowly, humble and poor will be blessed. Zephaniah today speaks of ‘the humble of the earth’, ‘a remnant’. Dig deeper, the remnant was a way to characterize the humble seeming ‘nobodies’ left behind after the exile. They will be exulted. Can you see how the idea unfolds in our second reading, and in the Gospel?

Where Do We Point?

St. Paul leaves no doubt. Are we blessed? Don’t point to ourselves, point to Christ crucified, and risen from the dead. Do we feel cursed? Don’t go inward and sink further through self-blame. Back to the cross. Join our suffering to Christ’s, discover how to turn suffering that has fallen upon us into redemptive suffering, transformed into loving sacrifice, and we will begin living the wisdom of God.

Blueprint for Living

For the faithful Jew, the Mosaic covenant with its laws and ordinances were a blueprint for living. Jesus didn’t do away with that covenant, but he does fulfill it, and invited us to enter into that fulfillment by making the beatitudes our blueprint for living the Christian life. WARNING: do not try this alone! This blueprint for living requires a community that supports our going against the grain of our culture. It also requires weekly Mass, where we can reconnect to the message, keep God in the center, and find the nourishment we need to stay strong in living holy, through communion.

Looking Ahead:
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 58:7 – 10
Share your bread with the hungry

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1 – 5
Faith resting on the power of God

Gospel: Matthew 5:13 – 16
You are the salt of the earth

Be My Valentine

Next Saturday, February 4, after the 4:30 pm Mass

$15/person

BYOB

Orange, Beet & Fennel Salad
Chicken Cordon Bleu
w/Herbed Mashed Potatoes &
Green Bean Almondine
Bittersweet Chocolate Mousse & Fresh Berries

Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 31 to Birdie or Shannon at 586-5675
Invited by the Lord to the Holy Table, we accept the divine invitation week after week. Thank you for choosing St. Louis as the place to respond to that invitation. Your presence itself is a gift. Thank you for joining us as we gather together, profess our faith together, pray for one another, offer the past week to the Lord, and offer ourselves in the coming week as well.

Thank you too for your generous support of the ministries here at St. Louis. Your contribution helps our community to be the light to others that Isaiah speaks of in the 1st reading today, not only sustaining the many ministries within the parish, but also making it possible for us to support other ministries through our weekly parish tithing. God bless you all!

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BEING IN COMMUNITY, SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

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This Week’s Tithing Will Support Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN)

Next Week’s Tithing Will Support House of Mercy

House of Mercy was founded in 1985 by Sister Grace Miller and the Sisters of Mercy. The purpose for House of Mercy is to help with homelessness in Rochester, NY. House of Mercy serves over 4,000 people a month, providing food, clothing, shelter, advocacy and a spirituality based on the Beatitudes. Their ministry operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week on a small shoestring budget and still has never turned anyone away. House of Mercy has a very small team which provides distinctive and compassionate assistance to those in need. The House of Mercy continues to be a beacon of hope for the poorest of the poor; they never give up on the people they serve. Soon they hope to move to a newly renovated building that will house 90 people. More than half of the $5 million needed to fully fund and support the new House of Mercy has been pledged to cover construction costs. Learn more at http://houseofmercyrochester.org/.

Godspeed

After many years in ministry, in our parish, our school, and most recently as our part-time liturgy coordinator, Bea Hack has decided to retire. This Sunday we wish her all the best, saying farewell especially at the coffee hours after the 7:30 and 9:00 AM Masses. Please join us in thanking her for so many years of dedicated service, praying her retirement will be filled with blessings, and sending her to her new home in the Southwest (Henderson, NV) with our love and prayers. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Meet Deacon Juan Benitez

Juan Benitez is a 28-year-old Deacon studying for the Diocese of Rochester NY, who will be joining us here at St. Louis this spring. Juan was born in Medellín, Colombia. He went to Our Lady the Miraculous Medal School, and served as an altar boy at Holy Cross Parish from 1997 until he finished high school in 2006. Then, he went to College Seminary in Yarumal, Colombia, and to Immaculate Mary Seminary to study theology while being a seminarian for the Diocese of Libano, Colombia. Recruited for our diocese, Juan came to the United States in January 2013. Upon arriving, he began studying English at Nazareth College in Rochester while living at Peace of Christ Parish. In August 2014, he went to St Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore to complete his theological studies and was ordained to the Diaconate on May 28, 2016. Bishop Matano has assigned him to St Louis Parish during spring 2017 until his ordination to the Priesthood this June. Deacon Juan is very excited to serve in our parish, as other Colombian seminarians have done before.

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MAKE SURE VBS HAPPENS!

Want to help with Vacation Bible School this Summer but not sure what’s available?? Our fun will be June 26 through June 29, 2017 and it’s time to get started! Check out some of our opportunities to help:

**Music and More Leader:** Become familiar with the material and music, learn our fun songs and motions and lead our kids in several songs each day.

**Projects-with-a-Purpose Leader:** Choose from three awesome service projects and decide who will get the gifts that the kids make, collect all the listed supplies, and make a sample of the selected project and lead our kids in three sessions each day.

**Playground Games Leader:** Get familiar with the many game options available that tie into each day’s Bible Point in a fun, memorable way, collect all the listed supplies, and join in on the fun for 3 sessions each day.

**Spotlight VBS Leader:** Circulate through Pets Unleashed snapping pictures of our kids as they participate in the FUN activities, set up a slide show for our last day to relive all the great memories of the week!

**Bible Adventures Leader:** Gather all the supplies and props for each day’s Bible Adventure activities, lead our kids through fun and interactive learning that really make the Bible stories come alive in 3 sessions per day.

**Tail End Leader:** Gather the supplies and props for the Tail End activities and set up for each day, be ready to lead an enthusiastic fun-filled activities to help our kids discover what it means to love and care for each other. Grab some friends and join in on all fun!

*Please contact Michelle Andrews-Smith at 586-5675 or email at mandrews-smith@dor.org to be a part of our team!*

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First Penance Family Session
**Monday, January 30**
6:30 - 8:00 p.m., Church

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**Upcoming Youth Events!**

- **Sunday 1/29/17 – Youth Group Parent Meeting Night** – Meet the new Youth Minister Leila Kaczmarek and hear about the future of Youth Group at St. Louis Church. Will take place in Church

- **Mondays 2/6 & 2/13 – CYO Coaches Meeting with Leila Kaczmarek & Alison LeChase.** If you are a CYO Coach or Assistant Coach, please choose ONE meeting to attend and email Leila Kaczmarek ASAP. (Lkaczmarek@dor.org) Will take place in Reddington Hall, Youth Room, Lower Level beneath Parish Meeting Hall.

- **Wednesday 2/15/17 – NCYC Parent Info Meeting – 6:30-7:30 PM in Reddington Hall, Youth Room, Lower Level beneath Parish Meeting Hall.** If your child has ever been interested in attending Catholic faith conferences, this is your chance to be a part of 2017’s biggest event. Linda Mehlenbacher, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will be present to answer questions.
a dozen reasons
to choose Catholic Schools

1. We provide a safe and welcoming environment for all.
2. We offer an education that combines Catholic faith and teachings with academic excellence.
3. We partner with parents in the faith formation of their children.
4. We set high standards for student achievement and help them succeed.
5. We provide a balanced academic curriculum that integrates faith, culture and life.
6. We use technology effectively to enhance education.
7. We instill in students the value of service to others.
8. We teach children respect of self and others.
9. We prepare students to be productive citizens and future leaders.
10. We have a 99 percent high school graduation rate. 85 percent of our graduates go to college.
11. We cultivate a faculty and staff of people who are dedicated, caring and effective.

The National Catholic Educational Association
NCEA.org/catholicschoolsweek
Because of the support of the St. Louis and St. John of Rochester Parishioners and the Rochester Community, Saint’s Place ended the 2016 year with awe-inspiring accomplishments.

Thank you to the following sampling of schools, businesses and organizations that contributed to Saint’s Place during the Christmas season. Their support and generosity made it possible for us to assist a record number of refugees.

St. Boniface Men’s Club  
St. Marian Cope Church  
St. Bonaventure University  
St. Paul Evangelist Church – Pittsford  
St. John’s Episcopal Church - Canandaigua  
Staff at St. Anne’s Community  
St. Benedict Church – Canandaigua  
St. Joseph’s School - Girl Scouts  
Church of the Transfiguration  
St. Joseph’s Church in Penfield  
Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints - Palmyra and Fairport locations  
The Knitters from Mountain Rise United Church of Christ  
Holy Spirit - Webster  
Knights of Columbus – St. Louis  
Sleep City  
Jane Henson Foundation  
Boy Scouts  
Livonia Middle School  
Catholic Charities of Rochester  
Joe Basil Chevrolet, Inc.  
RE/Max Realty Group Pittsford  
Pittsford Rotary  
Windsor Cottage  
Winton Distillery Corp.  
Global Brands Group - New York City

Alone we can do so little;  
Together we can do so much.  
~ Helen Keller

Interesting Facts from July – December 2016

Over 205 households were set up – that is almost as many as we did in the 2015-6 fiscal year! 223 households last year….and we still have six months to go for the 2016-7 fiscal year!

Over 850 refugees were helped at the Clothing Closet … again a 50% increase.

Over 200 filled backpacks were given to school age children.

Most refugees are arriving from Somalia, Cuba, Syria and Iraq.

Our numbers are over 60% higher than last year. Thank you for helping us to meet this awesome challenge.
Weekday Book Study

Join us Tuesday mornings for a dive into C.S. Lewis!

Come and make new friends, explore ideas of faith, and savor the beautiful mind of one of the most important Christian writers of the 20th century. The nine addresses in Weight of Glory offer guidance, inspiration, and a compassionate apologetic for the Christian faith during a time of great doubt.

Dates: Feb.7, 14, 21, 28, Mar. 21, 28, Apr. 4, 11
Time: 9:15-11:30 am
Where: Parish Meeting Hall

Please read the Preface and Chapter 1 before the first meeting.

Facilitator: Deb Donnelly. To register, please contact Kathryn McAlarney, 586-5675, ext. 224, KMcAlarney@dor.org.

Open Book Discussion

Second Chance!

Tired of winter? Grab a hot mug of something and curl up for a few hours with the book we handed out at Christmas. It will warm your heart! Then, let’s get together and share our reactions. Come have some wine, cheese, and good conversation with fellow parishioners as we talk about your favorite parts and what resonated with you.

Come join us:
When: Tuesday, January 31, 7:00-8:15 pm
Where: Parish Meeting Hall

For more info, contact Kathryn at KMcAlarney@dor.org or 586-5675, ext. 224. (I have a few more copies if you missed getting one!)

Plug into FORMED.org for relevant Catholic resources.

February 2 - Presentation of the Lord

Mary of Nazareth
This film vividly captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah, as well as her compassionate humanity and concern for others, and the deep love that she and Jesus shared for one another. (Find this under Movies, Inspirational)

Our Lady of Sorrows
Speaker and author Kimberly Hahn, wife of Dr. Scott Hahn and mother of six, is a convert to the Catholic Faith. Although honoring Mary was difficult for Kimberly to understand initially, she began to encounter Mary's loving guidance in little ways on a daily basis. In this presentation, she reflects on the joys and sorrows that Mary prayerfully experienced during her time on earth, and shares how her example leads us closer to Christ. (Find this under Audio, Prayer and Spirituality)

This parishioner’s comments:
How am I using Formed? I watched and am putting to use Dr. Tim Gray's Lectio Divina. I've heard of this type of prayer from Father Bob's sermons. Gray's overview was very helpful. [helpful to have a method for starting out]. He has 6 more in-depth sessions on Lectio Divina. I've looked at Session 1: Prayer. Sampled the Bible and Matthew's Gospel on my drive to Albany last Saturday!

To register for these FREE relevant Catholic resources, go to FORMED.org, use the parish code: KMFHWV. Contact Kathryn McAlarney for help or suggestions. KMcAlarney@dor.org or 586-5675, ext. 224.
LAST, BUT NOT LEAST!

“The human person is always precious, even if marked by illness or old age.” - Pope Francis

Make Your Voice Heard: Death with dignity means proper care, not a lethal drug dose. Our Diocesan Wide Public Policy Weekend effort to stop the legalization of physician assisted suicide in our state is February 4 and 5. We will participate by gathering signatures on a petition to be sent to New York State Governor Cuomo/New York State Senator/New York State Assembly Member.

CONSISTENT LIFE ETHIC EVENT: DOCUMENTARY ON GUN VIOLENCE

The St. Louis Consistent Life Ethic (CLE) team will be hosting a viewing of the documentary “Armor of Light” (www.armoroflightfilm.com) with an informal discussion to follow. Please join us on February 15th, at 7:00 PM in the Parish Meeting Hall.

For more information, contact Meg Smerbeck at megsmerteck@rochester.rr.com.

Please join us as we celebrate Mass as a school community!

Monday, January 30
9:10 a.m.

St. Louis Men’s Bereavement Support Group

The Bereavement Ministry will be hosting a men’s support group on Saturdays this February. Please accept this open invitation to come together with others journeying through grief, in a group rooted in faith and prayer. You don't have to walk this journey alone – we're here for you!

What: Men’s Bereavement Support Group
When: Saturdays in February 4, 11, 18 & 25, from 11am-1pm
Where: Parish Meeting Hall/Youth Room
Why: To come together to support each other, pray together, and explore ways we can utilize our faith to get through difficult times.

For more information and to RSVP, please contact Marilyn McAvoy at 267-0811 or mmcavoy2@mail.naz.edu, or Kirsten Redfield at 278-3501 or keredfield@gmail.com.

Magnificat Rochester (a ministry to Catholic Women) invites all women to a breakfast buffet on Saturday, March 4, 2017 at the Diplomat Banquet Center on Lyell Ave. Rochester. Seating begins at 8:30am and the program is from 9:30am to noon. Confessions available from 8:00am - 9:20am and again at noon.

Our speaker will be Fr. Mark Noonan, the pastor of St. Mary & St. Mark Churches in Holley & Kendall in the Diocese of Buffalo. He is one of 8 children and was a law student in Cleveland, Ohio when he slowly developed an awareness that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus. That propelled his faith and he soon realized God was calling him to be a priest.

Pre-Reservation is $20.00; after February 25th $22.00; Student $12.00. No tickets sold at the door. To register, mail check to: Magnificat Rochester, PO Box 24787, Rochester NY, 14624; include your name, address, phone number and email address. You can also register via PayPal on our website at www.MagnificatRochester.org. For more information: call Kathy Murty at 436-1284, or send an email to: MagnificatRochester@frontier.com
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, kmcalarney@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
Leila Kaczmarek,
Youth Ministry Coordinator
ext. 234, ikaczmarek@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
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