More on Funerals

Has this ever happened? In the heat of anger and frustration, you blurted out or did something that deeply hurt someone you love. Things calm, they forgive you, and tell you ‘It’s OK’. But you know it is not OK. You still have to face the ugly part in all of us, the not-yet-redeemed part, and forgive yourself. Why do we pray for those who have died? Why are funeral liturgies not simply “a celebration of life”? Because we are all a mix of grace and sin. Denial won’t help the mourning process. We pray in gratitude for the grace, and pray forgiveness for the sin. We pray that any unfinished business, things that would benefit from love and prayer be reconciled.

Here is a homey, partial analogy. Arriving at an airport, we can easily have things with us that have no place on a plane. We need to empty our pockets, open our suitcase, check for, and get rid of anything that could be hurtful or dangerous. “Oh, I forgot that was in there….” Like airport security, the time between the hour of death and the beatific vision is like baggage inspection. We need to let go of dangerous, destructive baggage (any remnants of sin) that has no place in heaven.

Another image: heaven has a front porch. Maybe some folks are so at peace with God, in such a state of grace that upon death, they are ushered into heaven straightaway. Most of us will need to wipe our feet first. Possibly take a shower. Some may even need to be hosed down. God’s love and mercy, together with our love and prayers help whatever needs to happen, happen.

The airport security, the front porch? We call it purgatory. Of course, it is not a place. Both Benedict and Pope Francis have clearly stated, purgatory is not a place but a process; about purification, not retribution. Though everyone can sound like a perfect saint in the obituary, deep down, don’t we know, the deceased was neither a miserable wretch, nor a perfect saint: they were a good, ordinary soul in process. Think of purgatory as the process of reviewing life’s accounts, allowing the grace of Christ to pay any old debts, a time for purification, for scars and troubled memories to heal. We pray for those who have died, sending our love, to help the process.

Medieval imagination gave purgatory a bad rap. Dante’s description in the Divine Comedy, and subsequent paintings based on his work exaggerated the idea of punishment and fire in purgatory, leading to fear and misunderstanding. Purifying fire and punishing fire are two different things! To get beyond the terror, think ‘warmed around the Easter fire’. Think ‘flame in my hearth’. Think ‘tongues of flame at Pentecost’. We Believe. We Belong. We Remember. We pray for the deceased. They pray for us. We help each other on the journey. Peace, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

**MONDAY - NOVEMBER 20**
1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Lk 18:35-43
11:00 am In Honor of St. Ann Ann Ricci
5:15 pm Letebrhan Assela - Malik Family

**TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 21**
2 Mc 6:18-31/Lk 19:1-10
6:45 am People of the Parish
11:00 am Louise Plati - Marilyn Penzimer

**WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 22**
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Lk 19:11-28
11:00 am Elizabeth Fake - Jerry Schmitt
5:15 pm Dr. Edward Fugo - Carmella Fugo

**THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 23**
1 Mc 2:15-29/Lk 19:41-44
9:00 am Art & Betty Farr, Peter & Carolyn Knittle - Bill & Diane Knittle Ellen Woloszuk - Husband & Children

**FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 24**
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/Lk 19:45-48
11:00 am Funeral Mass for John Young
5:15 pm Deceased in our Book of Remembrance

**SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 25**
1 Mc 6:1-13/Lk 20:27-40
9:00 am Andrew Carpentier - Family
4:30 pm William Grosse - Marjorie Newell

**SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 26**
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
7:30 am Karen Machuga - Serio Family
9:00 am John Crowe - Barbara & Bob Vanderlinde
11:15 am John Hoenig - Family
5:00 pm Charles E. Smith - Wife

**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.

- One lamp will burn for David & Terry Conking By Family.
- One lamp will burn In Memory of Maria Hoang Thi Phach By Ho Tran & Family.
- One lamp will burn For Maria Nguyen Thi Tinh and Dominic Hoang Phu Binh By Ho Tran & Family.

Thank you for praying for the deceased loved ones in our Book of Remembrance. As November draws to a close, please pray for those who will have an empty place at the Thanksgiving table this year!

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### Saturday & Sunday, November 25 & 26

<table>
<thead>
<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 - November 26**
The Highlands - Pete & Gerry Shea Heather Heights - Jim Haefner
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!

This Week’s Tithing Will Support
Sister Regis Food Cupboard

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

RAIHN has numerous volunteer opportunities ranging from greeting guests at a host location, cook or provide part of a meal, plan a children’s activity, shop for breakfast food and supplies, inflate/deflate air mattresses, drive the RAIHN van (no special license needed), maintenance, fundraising, guest mentor, office staff and much more! If you can share some of your time, please call our St. Louis RAIHN coordinator, parishioner Ann-Marie DeSantis at 406-6013 or email amdesantis@frontiernet.net. Information about RAIHN (and upcoming events) can be found at www.raihn.org.

Investing in the Future
What does your contribution to the CMA support?
- Catholic Charities of our diocese, the third largest Catholic Charities organization in the country, providing compassionate care to people in need throughout our 12 county diocese: showing mercy, being a neighbor to those in need, as Christ taught us.
- Catholic chaplaincies at colleges and universities around our diocese (serving young adults) and at hospitals (pastoral care for those who are ill).
- Future priests! The CMA helps support vocation awareness programs, the training of seminarians, deacon formation and pastoral year experiences.
- Future church leaders! The CMA supports diocesan staff that offer diocesan wide youth ministry programs, including retreats, leadership training, as well as training for lay ministers
- Support services to parishes, in technology, finance, human resources and more.
Your Thoughts?
Often our Stewardship team discusses: how do we increase everyone’s engagement in parish life and ministry, how do we better live out the stewardship of the woman praised in our 1st reading this weekend, the stewardship commended in the Gospel, which leads to joy? After all, we want everyone to hear those blessed words in the Gospel: “Well done, my good and faithful servant!”, and to experience the joy of the Gospel! What would help YOU to see your gifts as ‘on loan’ from the Lord? Are there fears or obstacles that keep you from investing your talents here at St. Louis or elsewhere in a way that would lead to joy? Our Stewardship Team would love to know, and better understand your thoughts on this. Please e-mail Dr. Debbie Hoeft with any thought you can share! (debbie53hoeft@yahoo.com) Better yet, come to a Stewardship Team meeting, and see if that is a place where you can use your gifts well!

At Home with the Word
Don’t skip the intro. Pick up your copy of *At Home with the Word*, and be sure to read the introduction to Mark’s Gospel a couple of times. Read the introduction to the Gospel according to John, and to St. Paul and his letters as well. It is amazing how even a brief bit of background can help us understand so much more when we read and pray the scriptures. *At Home with the Word* can deliver on the promise of the title if we just use it through the year. Don’t you want to be more at home with the Word?

Could I Pray For You
Before Mass begins, have you ever asked the person sitting near you if they would like you to pray for them, and if there is any particular need of theirs you might pray for at this Mass? Or have you ever come to Mass really needing support, and asked a person sitting nearby “would you pray for me today”. Step out of your comfort zone. Watch the grace that can flow as a result!

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**The Table of the Word**

### 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**1st Reading:** Proverbs 31:10 – 13, 19 – 20, 30 – 31  
*She extends her arms to the needy*

**2nd Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1 – 6  
*Let us stay sober and alert*

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14 – 30  
*Well done, my good and faithful servant*

### (Christ the King)

**1st Reading:** Ezekiel 34:11 – 12, 15 – 17  
*I will tend my sheep*

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:20 – 26, 28  
*In Christ all shall be brought to life*

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31 – 46  
*What you did for the least, you did for me*

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**FORMED Pick of the Week**

**True Reformers**

*Presented by Dr. Christopher Blum*

Join Dr. Christopher Blum on a pilgrimage with the saints who led the Church’s rebirth from the ashes of confusion caused by the Protestant Reformation. Beautiful, engaging and informative, this most recent program by Augustine Institute Studios unveils the power of the human heart’s free response to God’s grace.

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**Save the Date**

**Sunday, December 3, following the 11:15 am Mass to Celebrate Msgr. Gerry Krieg’s 90th Birthday!**
Thanksgiving Day Food Collection at St. Louis Church

If you come to the 9:00AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, (and we hope you do!), you are invited to bring non-perishable food items as a way to share your abundance with others.

St. Louis Parish has a wonderful tradition of collecting and distributing donated items to both the cloistered Carmelite nuns at their Jefferson Rd. Monastery and the Pittsford Food Cupboard.

Please, no glass containers or expired items!

The Carmelites would especially appreciate the following items: Paper Products, Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce (meatless), Pasta, Noodles, Saltine Crackers, Quick Oatmeal (unflavored), Cheerios, Frosted Mini Wheats, Raisin Bran, Graham Crackers, Apple Sauce (no sugar), Fresh Fruit, Squash, Zucchini, and Herbal Teas.

This year the Pittsford Food Cupboard is especially in need of: Meals in a can, Cereal, Canned Meats (tuna, chicken, spam), Peanut Butter, Strawberry Jam, Hearty Soups, Chile, Beans, Canned Vegetables, Dessert Mix, Jello and Pudding, Canned Fruits, Pastas and Sauce, and Paper Goods

Thank you in advance for your generosity!
In Their Own Words:
Anyone who contributes to St. Louis's Weekend Collections or who has given directly to Fr. Rick Frechette's efforts in Haiti via the envelopes in the Narthex, or who buys or sells the donated corn at our Haiti Corn Sale in September, or who buys or sells the “Gifts of Love” at our annual Ornament Sale in December (both major fundraisers), or who has donated to the “February Sneakers for Haiti” project, is an active member of St. Louis' Haiti Task Force Team!

Some of our so called “card carrying” Haiti Team Members want to tell you what ministry means to them – Sis Murphy, Pat Kling, Marge Biondi, Betsy DeBloom, Katie Cross and Janet Walsh to name a few, say that “being involved in Ministry makes them Happy!” Although they are deeply involved in several St. Louis Ministries, all say they get back more than they give. Our often used Team truth-ism: “Some people give to the missions by going; others of us – go by giving.”

My personal story begins and ends with the key word GRATITUDE – How appropriate for Thanksgiving Time during the Year of the Eucharist (Eucharist means “thanksgiving”). I started to help on the old World Hunger Committee 40 years ago, because I was grateful. Grateful to have the opportunity to feed, clothe and shelter my planned-for large family. Grateful that Nick and I had the health and opportunity to be able to do so and grateful to have enough to share with people in need.

Today, I am grateful for the same things, plus I am grateful for what I personally have been given by my participation over the decades: myriads of dear friends, a sense of peace in my declining years knowing that I have not frittered away the talents or the time that God has given me. Every year I plan for the next year hoping to improve on what is being done to help the poorest people in the world. Because of my Ministry here at St. Louis, I truly feel a valued place in the big world – which is not so big after all!

May God Bless you and yours, Marcia Mendola, St. Louis Haiti Task Force, Chair

St. Louis Pray-ers
And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.
Ephesians. 6:18

Is praying for others a ministry for you? Contact Cathy Malik, Pastoral Associate for Pastoral Care (585-586-5675) or via email at Catherine.Malik@dor.org. Be part of our Ministry of Prayer!
The True Meaning of Christmas

Angel Tree

Each angel on the Angel Trees represents one gift (the item is written on back of the angel) that is needed or wished for by one of our refugee family members. Do our children know that there are people right here in our community that do not receive new gifts for Christmas? How about giving your child the opportunity to share their blessings with another child? Or consider purchasing a gift for someone in need in honor of a loved one? We all have so much. Our Angel Tree affords us a unique chance to share our many blessings and good fortune with our newly arrived neighbors.

The true spirit of Christmas is giving and sharing. Saint’s Place gives new items to each arriving family— toys, household items, clothing, food gift cards, and so much more throughout the year. Over 1,200 gifts were donated last year through our Angel Tree. These items, large or small, generously donated by you; bring such dignity to the recipients— and it is all about dignity. Without your generosity, this would not be possible.

During this season of giving, we encourage you to take an angel(s) from the Giving Trees that will be located in the back of the church and at each side entrances. Gifts should not be wrapped and we willingly accept gifts into January, or February! (There is no time limit on sharing with those in need.) Gifts may be left in the bins under the angel trees at church or brought directly to Saint’s Place, 46 South Main Street. We thank you on behalf of all of the refugees that will be the recipients of your generosity.

Thank you for sharing the spirit of Christmas with so many needy people. It is in giving that we receive. Remember the Holy Family was also a refugee family.

Working Hard to Maximize Impact

Along with serving refugees and other needy individuals with passion, Saint’s Place also works diligently to expand funding revenue by applying for grants. Here are some of the wonderful organizations who heard our call: Gosselin Fund, Ronald McDonald Children’s Charity, Brighter Days Foundation, Charles and Mary Crossed Foundation, ESL Charitable Foundation, Saint Joseph Sisters of Rochester. If you know of any others who might be interested, kindly contact Isabel Miller at: saintlady@saintsplace.org

Saint’s Place is closed Wednesday, November 22 & Thursday, November 23. Happy Thanksgiving!
Dec. 2 and 3
our 36th Annual Ornament Sale
to benefit
St. Damien Pediatric Hospital –
Haiti’s only children’s hospital with multifaceted
outreaches free to the indigent

For Christmas – thoughtful and meaningful gifts
that not only help Haiti but also those who hand-make them
(Holy Childhood & St. Michael’s Woodshop.
for any Occasion: First Communion, Get Well,
Thinking of You, Office grab bag

All are packaged gift-giving-ready at Holy Childhood.
(with enclosed gift card)

FEATURING
new Holy Childhood Ceramic Angels
(embellished with 14 ct gold stars)

St. Michael’s Woodshop Wood Crosses
(Remember the days when every Christian home proudly
exhibited their faith in Jesus?)

Donation $8 each (no tax).
Cash or, please write checks to: St. Louis Hunger
For large orders or information on becoming a participating
merchant, please call: Marcia Mendola 381-6872.
*Samples and list of merchants offering them:
on St. Louis website and in church Narthex

Additionally, to raise funds at this dire time in Haiti:
Save Around Coupon Books @ $25 ea. offered Dec. 2 & 3

PLEASE help us earn the 2017 matching grant of $25,000
offered for funds raised for St. Damien Pediatric Hospital.

To make a direct donation to the St. Damien Pediatric Hos-
pital Fund, please use the envelopes provided in the narthex
under the mosaic of Our Lady – but note that you are from
St. Louis Church to insure your gift goes toward the grant
being offered.

Come One! Come All!
Bistro Night!
Saturday, December 2, 5:45 p.m.
Parish Meeting Hall
$12 per person – BYOB

Reservations Only Please
Payment Appreciated by
November 29 Deadline.

If you would like to participate in the
planning, please call Cathy Malik in the
Ministry Center at 586-5675, ext. 228.

Please make your reservations by calling
Shannon or Sue at 586-5675, no later than
Wednesday, 11/29/17.

Menu
Stuffed Pork Loin w/Gravy
Mashed Potatoes
Roasted Rainbow Carrots

Dessert
Festive Red Wine Poached
Pears
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.

**During the Season of Thanksgiving and Christmas, Try to Live an Attitude of Gratitude.**

- Volunteer at a homeless shelter
- Collect food for a Thanksgiving dinner for a family in need
- Have each member of your family member buy a Christmas gift and deliver them
- Join a St. Louis volunteer team

**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. 7 pm.**

All are welcome!
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

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Rev. Juan Benitez, Parochial Vicar
Fr.Juan.Benitez@dor.org
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St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
November 19, 2017