**Gratitude**

This coming Thursday our nation stops to give thanks. The pilgrims gave thanks after a bountiful harvest, even though half the number of those who landed did not survive that first harsh winter. George Washington issued a proclamation for a day of giving thanks, but it was Abraham Lincoln’s proclamation, in the midst of the civil war, with its dreadful hostility and loss of life that moved Thanksgiving from a primarily state tradition, to a national one. Ever since, Presidents have issued a proclamation for a national day of giving thanks.

We can give thanks for a bountiful harvest, give thanks when surrounded by plenty, but we can also give thanks in the midst of grief. The pilgrims did. Abraham Lincoln did. Families ever since have. What will frame your giving thanks this Thanksgiving?

Over my years, I’ve listened to many expressions of gratitude, many reasons for giving thanks. It is beautiful to hear a person particularly blessed give credit to God for their blessings, offering thanks. Hearing someone who has recovered from an illness is also moving, it touches the heart. Listening to the little ones in our school, or those a bit older, or teens express what they are grateful for can be heart-warming. But what reaches inside, and moves me most deeply? The times I have heard someone that most folks would pity because of their hardship, pains and struggles, giving thanks that God has been with them, helped them, blessed them.

This Thanksgiving, I invite you to look in two different directions. Yes, look at the obvious things you can give thanks for: the nation we live in, its bounties, and the freedoms we enjoy. Health to the degree you have it, life, family and friends. Gifts God has given, large and small. Opportunities you have been blessed with; experiences that have brought you joy. But let’s all also think of one or two things that most often would be put on a different list, the list of things we are not grateful for. Can we give thanks for a trial, a hardship, a loss? Can we give thanks for a failure, a misunderstanding, a hurt, some suffering? Just a couple weeks ago we heard the Beatitudes. Can they show us a way to give thanks even when others would only rail against heaven? We live in a world where terrorism can bring tragic suffering and loss of life. But we also live in a world where the majority respond as best they can, try to live good lives, and try to not let evil have the upper hand. Let us pray for all who suffer violence, pray for peaceful hearts, pray with true gratitude. God bless you all this Thanksgiving and always. Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

MONDAY - NOVEMBER 23
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk 21:1-4
11:00 am  Tom Kirchoff - Lada Family
5:15 pm   Steve Morris - Doris Wilmot

TUESDAY - NOVEMBER 24
Dn 2:1-5/Lk 21:5-11
6:45 am   Roland Schindler - Bea Hack & 4:30 pm Ushers
9:10 am   Andrew Carpentier - Family
11:00 am  Rudy Siegl - Wife, Barbara

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 25
Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk 21:12-19
11:00 am  David Martin - Peggy Patnella
5:15 pm   Maria Echaniz - Raé O’Brien

THURSDAY - NOVEMBER 26
THANKSGIVING-ONE MASS TODAY
Dn 6:12-28/Lk 21:20-28
9:00 am   Jack Tosh - Family

FRIDAY - NOVEMBER 27
Dn 7:2-14/Lk 21:29-33
11:00 am  John Hoenig - Jim & Sally Schreckert
5:15 pm   Harold Barnes - Babette

SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 28
Dn 7:15-27/Lk 21:34-36
9:00 am   Mary Fitch - Family
4:30 pm   Joseph McArdle - Margaret & Tim Walsh

SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 29
1st Sunday of Advent
Jer 33:14-16/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36
7:30 am   Andy Meloni - Bob & Karin McNamara
9:00 am   Ralph Graper - Marilyn Penzimer
11:00 am  Fred Giovagnoli, Sr. - Mary Sgabellone
5:00 pm   Patricia Hammele - Eileen Hoyt

Requiem Aeternam: Honorable Patrick J. Pietropaoli
Jeanne McCabe Spiegel
John Ryan

The Highlands: Carol Duffy
Heather Heights: Pete & Gerry Shea

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
In memory of
Paul (Bucky) Barvinchak by Marise & Ralph Lippa.

One lamp will burn
In memory of
Donald Corletta by Norma Corletta.

Please pray for all of those inscribed in our Book of Remembrance.
A Developing Idea
Ordinarily in Hebrew, ‘son of man’, simply means an individual human being. In Ezekiel, God often calls the prophet ‘son of man’. Perhaps it is to distinguish him from the various creatures of his visions, perhaps to point out that when you take an ordinary human being, and add God’s call and the power of the Spirit, amazing things can happen. By the time Daniel is written, the term is beginning to take on additional meanings. It could be a representative of the nation Israel, but also something more. In the apocalyptic, intertestamental writings (works written between the time of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New), the term begins to take on messianic connotations. In the New Testament, it can be any of the above. Layers of meaning can frustrate our desire to know exactly what a phrase means. But the complexity can add a richness; it can reflect the truth that mysteries cannot easily be pinned down, or confined to one interpretation. Tracing how a word, phrase or concept evolves over the history of revelation can also keep us humble!

Alpha and Omega
Your knowledge of the Greek alphabet a bit rusty? Alpha is the first letter of the Greek Alphabet, Omega is the last. The title ‘the Alpha and Omega’ appears in the book of Revelation, as today, and means Jesus (and God) are the beginning and the end of all things, eternal. Like saying ‘everything from A to Z’. This puts us in the realm of mystery as well though, since eternity is an ever-present now, and we can’t really say God had a beginning, or will have an end. See how human language and ways of understanding the world can’t quite nail down eternity, divinity, the mystery of God?

Poor Pilate
Roman annals reveal that Pilate made a variety of serious errors in judgement during his career. He also had a ruthless side. But then why would senators in Rome appoint someone a governor in one of the provinces, unless he had a certain fierceness? At the top of the job description was maintaining order, suppressing any tendencies toward independence, and instilling a certain fear in those governed. In these Pilate was well qualified. But with that way of living and understanding the world, how could he ever comprehend the Kingdom Jesus came to establish? A kingdom of peace and justice, where the lion lays down with the lamb? Poor Pilate could never understand. A kingdom in the realm of the spirit – just way too much for Pilate to grasp. How would you describe Jesus’ kingdom to someone with no religious sensitivity, someone whose only world was politics? How would you describe it to a curious person with little religious background?

It’s Not Always Clear
Sometimes stumped by something in the Sunday readings? We do our best to sort it out, Tuesday mornings, 7:30-8:30 AM at the Manse. A Bible study you can come to any week, whenever you can make it. We spend time looking at any questions raised by the previous Sunday’s scriptures, and then prepare for the following weekend by studying the coming weekend’s Bible readings. There is a place at the table for you, any time!

At Home with the Word
An Introduction to Luke’s Gospel, the readings for every Sunday of the year, together with reflections on the readings and ways to go deeper: pick up your copy of At Home with the Word, and discover just how much the Sunday readings have to offer in dealing with the challenges of life!

What mission is Christ calling you to fulfill, the one that only you can do?
I Can Do That!

Do you know anyone who has been away from church for quite a while, or anyone who doesn’t have a parish home? We have room here at St. Louis at each of our Masses, and with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all that is happening in our world, many folks may be more receptive to what a church home can offer. Invite that person who has been away, or who doesn’t have a church home – let them know right now is a great time to try out coming back to church, a great time to try out our parish, a great time to taste what our Catholic church has to offer. We believe, we belong, we invite others to join us!

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! Knowing that many people choose to make year-end donations, 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 2015 will need to be received by December 31, 2015.

Next Week’s Tithing will Support St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard

St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard, 890 Portland Avenue, serves an area of highly concentrated poverty in the 14621 Northeast quadrant of Rochester. St. Andrew’s mission is to provide the best nutrition they can offer. They also provide diapers, some baby needs, and include toiletries with each household order. Clients are offered recipe and food handling advice and access to free clothing, coupons, used books and magazines, and phone usage. Furniture assistance through the adjoining St. Vincent dePaul Society is also available. Most importantly, they try to build relationships with those who come in need.

- The main referral source for clients is word of mouth from those who have talked about the high level of service and quality of food received. Their caring volunteer staff treats everyone with dignity and compassion. An interview process is arranged for a new client after a 1 st come 1 st signed sign in process. Clients need to provide proof of address and residency in the service area for anyone over 18, provide two forms of ID including a picture ID, and have various types of records to prove household make up, income and expenses, and the reason they ran out of food. Referrals can be made to other agencies and groups to better assist the client. Referrals also come from other agencies, advocacy groups, churches and schools.

- Donors and Volunteers learn about the Cupboard through churches, businesses, bulletins, and word of mouth. Groups can take tours of the Cupboard when food collections are delivered.

- New volunteers are always welcome. Volunteers do pick-ups at Foodlink and unload the cases when they return. Volunteers help with food preparation such as assembling toiletry packets, placing produce in plastic, and stocking shelves. Volunteers also help with office work such as answering the phone, filing, “working the desk” and interviewing clients after completing a training program. Volunteer commitments are flexible based on personal availability.

To learn more about St. Andrew’s Food Cupboard or to set up a donation collection program, please contact Margaret Oberst at 338-1760 (Cupboard), 254-3093 (home) or email moberst@dor.org. Volunteers come in on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday from 9:00 – 11:30 am. (Note: St. Louis collects food for St. Andrew’s every 3 months.)

“I Was Hungry And You Gave Me Food”

Many thanks to all who brought in food last weekend, to help keep the Sister Regis Food Cupboard stocked. If you miss the third weekend collection, food may be left anytime for Pittsford Food Cupboard. There is a drop off drawer in the entry way near the grand piano at the front of church. There is also a bin in the Narthex near the handicap door. Contributions of non-perishable food can always be donated.

Supporting Our Parish

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There will be a second collection next weekend, November 28 & 29 for the support of Catholic University and other American Catholic Higher Education Institutions.

This Week’s Tithing will Support Habitat Interfaith Partnership
2015/2016 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

WE ARE ALL ONE

Please support your parish in the CMA

Go to www.dor.org • View the video
See how the funds are distributed • Make your gift
St. Louis School
Thanksgiving Mass
Tuesday, November 24
9:10 am
All are welcome!

LADIES
SAVE THE DATE!
The Rochester Catholic Women’s Conference is coming back on March 12, 2016. This year’s theme is “Love One Another” and speakers include Sr. Clare Matthiass of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, Kelly Wahlquist, a dynamic and inspiring Catholic author and speaker whose gift of weaving personal stories and Scripture together with practical advice allows her audience to enter more fully into what Pope Francis has called us to do – to live the joy of the Gospel with missionary zeal, and Marcus Grodi of the Coming Home Network International. Registration is open now at www.Rochestercwc.org.

SHOP ’TIL YOU DROP FUNDRAISER FOR ROCHESTER INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK (RAIHN)
PITTSFORD PLAZA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 5:00 - 9:00 PM
Proceeds will benefit RAIHN. Helping Homeless Families Achieve Sustainable Independence . . . visit www.raihn.org

Benucci’s Italian Ristorante, Wine Bar and Pizzeria
Benucci’s is passionate about Italian food, bursting with flavors from all regions of Italy. Enjoy a meal at the Italian Wine Bar or relax in the warm and inviting dining room. Mention that you are dining for RAIHN when you arrive and Benucci’s will donate 20% of your check (excluding tip & tax). Reservations suggested. 264-1300.

One World Goods
One World Goods is a fair trade gift store that sells quality handcrafted items, apparel, jewelry and coffee from around the world. Your purchase provides vital income for our global neighbors as well as a donation to RAIHN.

Hobby House Toys
A unique toy store for kids of all ages. Family owned, specializing in educational toys, games puzzles, sports, trains, vehicles, science, puppets and much more.

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Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration – Sign-Ups Continue This Weekend

The formation of a Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration (PEA) group at St. Louis has now begun and sign-ups will be on-going. St. Louis adorers will share the chapel at St. John of Rochester (which presently offers PEA), alongside the St. John’s adorers. Adorers can commit to a specific hour each week to be with Our Lord, or be available as a substitute, if needed. Also, everyone is invited to stop in at any time, day or night, even for just a few minutes. Some have commented that they might be interested in supporting the program, but find that a full hour each week may be difficult to commit to. One solution – bring along a faith-based book to read, or check out the various books on the shelves in the chapel – the hour will go by very quickly. Also, Fr. Bob has suggested splitting the hour with a friend or family member, overlapping by a few minutes where each person can pray for the other’s intentions. A third comment – someone suggested they might split the weeks with other family members. All are great ideas! Do you have others to suggest?

Each week, certain hours will be focused as priority hours to consider. This week, Friday night at 10 pm and 11 pm, and Saturday night at 10 pm and 11 pm are noted to be priority hours. If you can commit to any of these hours (especially) or any other times during the week, or would like to know more about PEA or the formation of the St. Louis group, please see Deacon Dave, or contact him at 1deacondave@gmail.com, or Barb Snyder at twosnyders@gmail.com. You may also leave your contact information at the parish office.

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 a new empty place at the Thanksgiving table this year!

Thanksgiving Day Food Collection

If you come to the 9AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day (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 these donated items to both the Pittsford Food Cupboard and the cloistered Carmelite nuns at their Jefferson Rd. Monastery.

This year the Pittsford Food Cupboard is especially in need of: Hearty Soup, Jelly, Mac ‘n Cheese, Pasta Sauce, Pasta Shells, Condensed Soups, & Canned Meals.

The Carmelites would especially appreciate healthy, low-sugared cereals like: Cheerios, Raisin Bran, Oatmeal, and Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, etc.).

Please do not send expired items or items in glass jars.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Gifts of Love
Take an angel or star home for Thanksgiving....

Although our church sale is not until Dec. 5 and 6, the rustic chic ornaments new this year would be great for Thanksgiving hostess gifts as well as Christmas tokens of goodwill. Each ornament is uniquely handmade of varying hardwoods; and are suitable for tree or tabletop decorations.

To benefit children at St. Damien Pediatric Hospital in Haiti, these ornaments made at St. Michael’s Woodshop and gift packaged at Holy Childhood are already available for a $7 donation at 28 stores listed on the parish website www.stlouischurch.org/Christmas-ornament-sale and on a sign in the narthex or call Marcia Mendola 381-6872.


\“Ask those who love Him with a sincere love, and they will tell you that they find no greater or prompter relief amid the troubles of their life than in loving conversation with their Divine Friend.\” ~ Alphonse Liguori
SEARCHING FOR THAT PERFECT GIFT
FOR THE PERSON THAT HAS EVERYTHING?

You know they don’t need another sweater, tie or gadget. Why have something sit in their closet or take up shelf space until they decide to “recycle” it? Give a gift that always fits - an Angel Tree gift in their honor! Let us know what you are purchasing and for whom it is being purchased. We will send that person an acknowledgement card. We will need the name and address of the person for whom you are buying the item in their honor. You can call us with the information or attach a note with the gift.

The true spirit of Christmas is giving and sharing. Saint’s Place gives new items to each arriving family – 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 happiness to the recipients. They are so appreciative. Without your generosity this would not be possible.

Last year our supply of new items lasted until August. That was an awesome feat! This year we are hoping to increase the number of gifts, so we will be able to give a few new items to families that arrive even in the Fall of 2016.

Since January 2015, Saint’s Place has assisted almost 700 newly arrived refugees. By the end of December that number should be close to 750 newly arrived refugees.

Thank you for helping provide Christmas miracles all year long.

Saint’s Place is closed for Thanksgiving from Monday, November 23 thru the end of the week, and will reopen on Monday, November 30 at 8:30 am.

During the Thanksgiving Holiday time our volunteers will be enjoying time with their family and friends, so there will be no one to sort and organize donations. Please do not leave donations during this time.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your continued cooperation and understanding.

We are in need of men to drive and lift furniture on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm. Call Michele at 385-6860 if you are interested. Your help would be tremendous and most welcome!

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!
To: St. Louis Faith Formation Students
On "Candlelight Night" in Pittsford, December 1st, from 5:00pm 'til 9:00pm, come join us in a candlelight walk starting at 5:00 pm from the Manse at St. Louis to the corner of Main & State Streets in the village, singing Christmas carols along the way.

There, in front of the Goodwill Drop-off store, we will be staffing a table offering hot chocolate & donuts, compliments of St. Louis parish, sharing our faith throughout the community.

Along with carolers, we need volunteers to assist with serving the goodies and chatting with visitors throughout the evening.

If you can help, please contact Carol McManus at 248-3886 or by e-mail: cmcmanus679@gmail.com.

We would greatly appreciate your participation and help!

The Sacrament of Penance - Fr. Bill Casey, CPM
Speaking on reconciliation, Fr. Bill Casey, Superior General of the Fathers of Mercy, reminds us that confession, “the forgotten Sacrament”, is the ordinary means for the forgiveness of mortal sins after baptism and a veritable treasury of graces and spiritual strength for us in our daily struggles against temptation and sin. Discover how this Sacrament can transform your life if you allow it! “This is an excellent description of the Sacrament of Penance and the reasons why we should all take advantage of its graces.” Robert - Syracuse, NY

Confirmation: The Sacrament of Evangelization and Martyrdom - Dr. Brant Pitre
Today there is oftentimes a misconception of what the Sacrament of Confirmation is actually for or how it affects our lives. In this talk, Dr. Brant Pitre invites us to better understand the tremendous graces and calling received through this sacrament. He points to various passages in scripture which provide a historical foundation and, through bold witness, challenges us to willingly surrender our lives to Christ. Dr. Brant Pitre is a professor of Sacred Scripture at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans, LA. “Until I heard this talk, I had not really understood what Confirmation is all about. I wish I’d had this talk when I was confirmed so I could have lived up to this great Sacrament.”

Daniel - Vancouver, BC
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St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
November 22, 2015