Whose Image and Inscription?

Today’s Gospel: a classic turn around. Matthew tells us some Pharisees and Herodians have been plotting how to trap Jesus. “Let’s force him to make a choice: either say something that will get him in trouble with the Romans, or something that will undercut his support among the people. The people hate paying the Roman tax, especially being forced to use Roman currency, which carried the Emperor’s image, with the words ‘Divus et Pontifex Maximus’ (divine and high priest). What a slap in the face and sacrilege! Ah hah! Let’s ask him whether folks should pay the tax! He either gets in trouble with the civil authority, or loses esteem among the people.” But as soon as Jesus asks for a coin, his adversaries are put to the test.

This scene is set on the Temple grounds. Rome had permitted the minting of special Jewish coinage that had no graven images, for use among themselves, and certainly for use in the Temple precincts. (Remember the money changers? They made sure worshippers had Jewish, non-blasphemous coinage). What are good Jews doing with Roman coins in their pocket in the Temple precincts? Having turned the table, Jesus brings it home with: ‘Return to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and give to God what is God’s.’ His followers could hear: get that blasphemous coin out of your hands as quick as possible, and give it back to the blasphemer who minted it. Only God is worth of worship, not the Emperor. Worship God and God alone. Of course, the authorities would have heard, he’s teaching them to pay the tax. To think Jesus was offering a decisive teaching about the separation of church and state is anachronistic. If anything, he was pointing out just how coopted his antagonists were. They had allowed themselves to be sucked into the Roman imperial system, turning a blind eye to the cult of the Emperor which was so much a part of it. But the question of worship is just as important today. If we define ‘worship’ to be solely the activity we engage in at church, then Jesus’ message may not seem troubling at all. But actually, the word is much broader – it has to do with the expression of reverence and adoration. Do we bow down before money? Before the ruling authorities? Even better questions: Whose image are we in? Genesis is pretty clear on that: We were created in the image of God! As to inscriptions, Isaiah 49:16 comes to mind, when God tells us: ‘I have inscribed you on the palm of my hand….’ Rather than what is in our pocket, we can bring the Gospel home by asking: “what is closest to my heart?” How and what do we give back to God what is God’s, namely ourselves?

Hopefully all this sheds some light on the Lord speaking to us in the Gospel. Step two, spend time in conversation with the Lord: keep the conversation going! God’s peace to you all, Fr. Bob
Mass Intentions for This Week

**Monday - October 20**
Eph 2:1-10/Lk 12:13-21

- 11:00 am: Stephen Siegl - Joan Siegl
- 5:15 pm: Barbara Yankowski - The Thursday Evening Holy Hour

**Tuesday - October 21**
Eph 2:12-22/Lk 12:35-38

- 6:45 am: Nick & Mike Couture - Mom
- 11:00 am: Gary Kurchyn - Family

**Wednesday - October 22**
Eph 3:2-12/Lk 12:39-48

- 11:00 am: Deceased Members & Spouses of The 70th Seton Branch St. Mary’s Hospital - Patsy Schroth
- 5:15 pm: Edward Lada - Family

**Thursday - October 23**
Eph 3:14-21/Lk 12:49-53

- 6:45 am: Harry Midgley - Peggy O’Neil Midgley
- 11:00 am: Jennifer Tucci - Paul & Geri Dolan

**Friday - October 24**
Eph 4:1-6/Lk 12:54-59

- 11:00 am: Donald Wilde - Eisenhart Family
- 5:15 pm: Victor Merkel - Suzanne & Billy Morley

**Saturday - October 25**
Eph 4:7-16/Lk 13:1-9

- 9:00 am: Dorothy Wegman - Mary Jane Schwind
- 4:30 pm: John M. Dunn - The Baileys

**Sunday - October 26**
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 22:20-26/1 Thes 1:5e-10/Mt 22:34-40

- 7:30 am: Ann Ring - Lillian Jabbour & Cecilia DeJoy
- 9:00 am: Ronald Davis - Glynn Family
- 11:00 am: James Mattina - John & Beth Sullivan & Family

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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 Vivian Ripton
By The Eisenhart Family.

Two Lamps Will Burn
In Memory of Stanley Banas
By Family.

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**Requiem Aeternam**

Mary Elizabeth (Sue) Angevine

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**Saturday & Sunday, October 25 and 26**
Thank you, faithful servants!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>J. Milazzo</td>
<td>P. Spinelli, P. Spinelli, E. Horey-Thiede, M. Smerbeck, L. Milazzo, D. Morris, T. O’Leary</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>P. Leon</td>
<td>P. O’Neil Midgley, B. Wise, R. Calcagno, S. Carpenter, D. Kendricks, D. Infantino, D. Infantino, B. Bullis, C. Boyd, S. Boyd</td>
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<td>M. Cummings</td>
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<td>D. Kendricks</td>
<td>Children</td>
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<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>M. Diamond</td>
<td>M. Murphy, P. Mersich, K. Mersich, J. Ferranti, R. Willison, E. Whitaker, S. Whitaker, M. Hickey, L. Iati, D. McKeown</td>
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<td>C. Heffernan</td>
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<td>5:00 pm</td>
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<td>M.E. Holvey</td>
<td>G. Magguilli</td>
<td>J. Bergin W. Bergin</td>
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**Sunday Communion Service - October 26**
The Highlands: Marge Mancine  Heather Heights: Jim Haefner
Remembering
The Pentateuch (1st five books of the Old Testament) reiterates often the importance of remembering the Exodus. We will hear in the 1st reading next week how important it is to remember God’s mighty deeds. Remembering God’s deep compassion in delivering the people in the past, we can grow into a relationship with the same God, who loves us with the same love, and can deliver us with the same power. But the remembering should also shape our behavior. “You were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt…” Compassion grows, our concern for the stranger, the widow, the orphan and the poor grows when we can put ourselves in their shoes. When we remember that their challenges were once the challenges of our very own ancestors: that can fire up compassion and understanding.

It is Inspiring!
Next week, be sure to notice in the second reading, a rather unusual combination, affliction and joy. The believers of the church in Thessalonica inspired other people throughout Asia Minor to become disciples, and also strengthened the faith of people who had already come to know Christ. How? Because folks could see that affliction couldn’t dampen the joy of the men and women in the church there. As their relationship with the Lord grew, people in Thessalonica experienced joy, found strength for their troubles, and there was even enough joy to spill over to others. Good news can spread fast.

Focus on the Basics
When the Pharisees sent a scholar of the law to test Jesus, quite likely the scholar was looking to get into a debate with him. But Jesus kept it simple. What is the most important commandment? Well, if we love God, we will take them all seriously, and if we love our neighbor, then all of the commandments about not harming another, and doing good, are fulfilled. These two basic commandments are still the heart of it all. The instruction to parents and godparents at baptism puts it this way: ‘It will be your duty to bring them up according to God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor.’ (Lord, help us to know you, to enter into a life-long relationship with you, and to grow as you teach us just how to love you, and our neighbor).

Not Just for Lectors!
This Monday, October 20, join us at 7PM in church for a session on Proclaiming the Word. Certainly all lectors are encouraged to come, whether serving as lector on weekends or weekdays. Those who might be interested in serving in this ministry, by all means come! But what if you are asked to do a scripture reading at a wedding, a funeral, or some other special occasion? Shouldn’t all believers have at least some awareness of how to read from the Bible? Hope to see you there!

We Believe, We Belong, WE REMEMBER.
This year, All Soul’s Day falls on November 2nd, a Sunday. How important is All Soul’s Day? It is one of the few memorials that actually takes precedence over the Sunday readings. While we remember and pray for all of our deceased loved ones at each of the Sunday Masses that day, the 11AM Mass will be a special parish celebration. We invite all who have lost someone this past year to join us for that Mass, as we pray for them, and also pray that the Lord be in the grieving process, to bring an extra measure of peace and consolation as we all remember and pray together. Plan to stay for the bereavement reception hosted by our Pastoral Care Team, in the Parish Meeting Hall. If you know anyone still grieving who could use some support, healing and hope, please consider inviting them and bringing them to this special Mass.

Forgiveness, Sacraments and Reconciliation
While our focus is shifting from We Believe. We Belong. We Learn to We Believe. We Belong. We Remember., you can do all of these on October 28th, 7PM in the Church. We’ll be exploring the forgiveness, reconciliation, and the path the Lord provides for us to lead to greater peace, especially through sacramental mercy. We can learn more, but also remember how vital forgiveness and reconciliation are to our short term and long term peace and fulfillment. You are warmly invited. Consider bringing along a friend, especially anyone who struggles with issues of forgiveness.

The Word of the Lord Sounds Forth the Joy of the Men & Women

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Word for the Week</th>
<th>29th Sunday in Ordinary time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6</td>
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<td>I am the Lord, there is no other</td>
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<td>2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b</td>
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<td>We give thanks to God for you always</td>
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<td>Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21</td>
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<td>Give to God what is God’s</td>
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<tr>
<th>Preparing for Next Weekend:</th>
<th>30th Sunday in Ordinary time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26</td>
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<tr>
<td>You were once aliens yourself</td>
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<td>2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>You serve the living and true God</td>
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<td>Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40</td>
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<tr>
<td>You shall love the Lord with all your heart</td>
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This Week’s Tithing Will Support Pittsford Food Cupboard

Next Week’s Tithing Will Support Elderberry Express

The cold weather season means a number of The Elderberry Express volunteers are going to warmer climates. As seniors are living longer and unable to drive, there is more demand on The Elderberry Express. What is the Elderberry Express? The Pittsford Interfaith Coalition on Aging launched this transportation service for Pittsford senior citizens in 1987. The aim of this service has been to assist Pittsford seniors in remaining independent in their “home setting” as long as possible. This enabled seniors who can no longer drive to maintain a sense of independence. The service is provided Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Elderberry Express is now in its 27th year of service. Many clients have expressed their appreciation for the more meaningful life that Elderberry Express helps provide for them. People living longer has created an increasing need to provide transportation for senior citizens to get to their medical appointments, grocery shopping, hair appointments, banking activities, etc.

The success of Elderberry Express has always depended on volunteers – volunteer drivers and dispatchers. This volunteerism does not take a lot of time out of one’s monthly schedule – typically a one hour commitment for an appointment a couple of times a month. The need for more volunteers is always growing. This is, without a doubt, a needed and wonderful service in Pittsford that St. Louis parishioners support in many ways. Can you help in maintaining this wonderful service to the Pittsford community? If so, call Gil Landry at 248-6237.

St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
October 19, 2014
BEGINNING EXPERIENCE
OFFERS WEEKEND RETREAT NOVEMBER 7-9
Beginning Experience is a peer support group for separated, divorced and widowed adults. The weekend program helps deal with the natural grief process and offers an opportunity, through God, for dealing with the pain of loss and moving into the future with renewed hope. Our next retreat will be at **Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake November 7-9, 2014.** For more information contact Beginning Experience at (585) 987-1750 or visit www.beginningexperiencerochesterny.org

Thank you to all our wonderful parishioners who donated their time or treasure to Birthright’s Annual Walk for Life this fall. Your generosity and support of unborn children, expectant mothers, and their families is most appreciated. God bless you! Elizabeth Ministry

Advent House is in Critical Need of Hands-On Volunteers
Caregivers at Advent House have a unique opportunity - to assure those in this final stage of life that they will not be abandoned, to listen when fears are verbalized, to provide understanding and dignity for their physical needs. It is a vital ministry in our community. Please consider the role you could play at Advent House as a Hands-On Volunteer. Give it prayerful consideration. It is a commitment of 4-8 hours per month, and this commitment can enrich your life beyond measure. To find out more about this opportunity, please call Laurie, the Volunteer Coordinator at 223-6112.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE AT ST. LOUIS
SEPTEMBER 24 - NOVEMBER 2, 2014
Please join our St. Louis parishioners and Consistent Life Ethic Team in a 40 Days for Life effort! A national and international campaign since 2007, people of faith have mobilized world wide to stand up for life. At St. Louis, we have a multi-pronged effort of prayer, education, and fasting each week of the six-week campaign.

**THIS WEEK’S EFFORT FOR 40 DAYS FOR LIFE**
(Remember to have each family member do one item for life [from yellow sheet] during the week, and submit on a piece of paper to the 40 Days box at Church. We will summarize at the end.)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 20:**
5:15 pm ~ Mass w/ Life Intention

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21:**
9:50 AM ~ Rosary for Life w/ McQuaid Jesuit HS students
(1800 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22:**
12:00 NOON ~ Rosary with St. Louis School Children in Church.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23:**
9:50 AM ~ Rosary for Life w/ McQuaid Jesuit HS students
(1800 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24:**
Fasting for Life ~ forego a meal and offer it up as a form of prayer for life*

*Prayer and Fasting Go Hand in Hand . . .
Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. Prayer keeps us rooted in our desire to carry out God’s will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God’s help, and is a physical form of prayer that helps us stay connected to God.

Questions on the St. Louis effort?
Please contact Kathleen Anderson at kanderson51@rochester.rr.com or 385-7601. Go to www.40DaysforLife.com for more info and statistics on the national effort. For activities in the Rochester area, go to www.40DaysforLife.com/Roch.

Today, October 19, is World Mission Sunday! We are invited today to reach out and help build the Church in Mongolia, the world’s youngest Catholic Church, as well as local churches throughout the Missions, in the most remote areas across our world. Your prayers and generous gift to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in the collection today help the work of priests, religious and lay leaders in Mongolia and throughout the Missions who offer the poor practical help and the experience of God’s love and mercy, His hope and peace. Please keep the Missions in your daily prayers. Please be as generous as you can to today’s collection. For more information, please visit www.IAmAMissionary.org.
Saint’s Place Updates . . .

Refugees Still Seeking Safe Haven

Since January, Saint’s Place, set up 170 homes for some 623 newly arrived refugees to the Rochester area. The Saint’s Place Clothing Closet has also provided clothing to over 925 people.

The 170 household set ups included 542 NEW beds with new pillows and clean bedding. After days of traveling and years of waiting to reach their new home, refugees are able to rest their weary heads on a “real” bed, not a cot or the floor of a hut. Twenty four new cribs were also delivered.

Refugees have arrived from Bhutan, Burma, Cuba, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Congo, Ukraine and Ethiopia. Many refugees that have been here for over five years have become United States citizens.

Saint’s Place has an ongoing program with the Rochester International Academy, a Rochester City School for Grades 1 - 12, where newly arrived refugee children start their United States education. Over 245 students attend the school. Again this year Saint’s Place purchased school uniforms shirts and hooded sweatshirts for the students. Students also volunteer at Saint’s Place on a monthly basis, as part of the school’s program of giving back to the community. Finally, a program is underway wherein the children from the Rochester International Academy will be coming to our Clothing Closet for needed winter coats and clothing.

Our tutoring programs are off to an impressive start. The two locations are tutoring over one hundred refugees on a weekly basis. Seven new tutors have joined the ranks along with new students from Nazareth College.

We are expanding the use of our Clothing Closet at Saint John of Rochester. Twice a month we send our excess clothing inventory to Mary’s Closet for the refugees in that locale. We have met with the community leaders from Bhutan and Burma asking them to bring the families in need of winter clothing to us. Saint’s Place will be open the first Saturday of each month to accommodate the growing needs of the refugee community. More details to follow about volunteer opportunities for Saturday mornings.

Saint’s Place urgently needs warm, clean winter coats, hats, gloves and boots. There are many refugees, newly arrived and those who have been here a few years that need our help with warm winter clothing. At the present time we have no men’s small or medium winter jackets, no men’s boots and a very limited number of children and ladies winter coats. We need coats today! Can you help?

This year we hope to help more refugees than previous years. So we need your continued help and support. Please check your closets. Can you spare a jacket that just “sits” in the closet waiting to provide warmth to someone walking to and from school, a job or the market? Rather than having a coat sit idle, please consider putting it to work providing warmth to a needy refugee. With a coat the refugees are able to stay healthy, they are able to attend school or work, and their self-esteem is improved knowing others want them to succeed. You can make a difference in the life of a refugee today! Our gratitude for your help can not be clearly or easily expressed - you should see the gratitude in the faces of the refugees we serve!
Hi Teens,

Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful time of year! Youth Group is off to a great start. We've been enjoying each other's company, making new connections, welcoming and learning about our new freshman friends, and working to strengthen our faith and relationship with Christ. When I was in high school, I remember being nervous about joining the Youth Group. Showing up at a meeting where you might not know anyone is never easy. With some coaxing from my mother, I finally went! I ended up making many lasting friendships and learning a lot about myself. The St. Louis Youth Group was one of the best parts of my time in high school.

If you've never been to a meeting, I encourage you to join us for one and check it out! We will meet Sunday after the 5pm mass. (We meet in the Parish Meeting Hall). You are always welcome to bring a friend.

Hope to see you soon. Have a great week!

Molly Hickey (Mr. McBride's Daughter)

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Sunday, October 19, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Regular Youth Group Meeting
Sunday, October 26, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Regular Youth Group Meeting
Sunday, November 2, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Dinner & Regular Youth Group Meeting
Sunday, November 9, 6:00 - 7:30 pm Regular Youth Group Meeting

Life! In Focus

"I believe the best way to defend life is to celebrate life. I believe that the best way to celebrate life is to live our own lives to the fullest: to embrace life with both arms wide open, to lay our lives enthusiastically at the service of humanity, to love deeply the people who cross our path, and above all, to embrace our God. Life should never be wasted. Not one moment, because life is precious."

~ Rediscovering Catholicism by Matthew Kelly

Consider: Getting a copy of the above book to read more of what Matthew Kelly has to say on living life to the fullest! Or pick up one of his CDs when available in the Lighthouse Catholic Media display in the Narthex.

IT IS TIME TO ORDER (OR RENEW) GIVE US THIS DAY FOR 2015.

Many people in the parish subscribe to Give Us This Day, a daily prayer book for each month that in addition to psalms, scripture readings, morning and evening prayers, includes reflections about the spiritual wisdom of the Gospel and “Blessed Among Us” stories about Saints and saintly people whose courage and values can be inspirational in our own lives and faith journey. Each issue includes a liturgical calendar for the month.

If our group subscription continues to exceed 50, our individual cost will be $19.95 for 12 issues in 2015. (The single order price is $39.95, so this is a substantial savings!) A large-print version is also available for $29.95 for 12 issues.

To renew your subscription or to sign up for the first time: Checks should be made out to St. Louis Church with “Give Us this Day 2015” in the memo field, in the amount of $19.95 for each individual subscription (or $29.95 for each large print subscription), and mailed or brought to the Ministry Center by Monday, October 20. For contact information, please include your email address or phone number. Please address envelope to Barbara Thomas, St. Louis Church, 64 South Main Street, Pittsford, NY 14534. Pre-addressed order forms and envelopes are available at the church entrances.

Questions or need additional information? Please contact Barbara Thomas at bthomas@dor.org or 586-5675 ext. 236. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE! The Rochester Catholic Women’s Conference, is coming back to the Aquinas Institute on March 28, 2015. This year’s theme Body, Mind and Soul, emphasizes God’s complete love for us and our joyful response to Him. Please visit the website at Rochestercwc.org/. For updates on when to register or contact Barbara Thomas at bthomas@dor.org for more details.

At Home with the Word

Be sure to pick up a copy of At Home with the Word for 2015 beginning the weekend of November 8 & 9. At Home with the Word is a great tool for each Sunday of the next liturgical year to make sure we are all well equipped, through scripture, for every good work! The next liturgical year begins Sunday, November 30, 2014.
COME JOIN OUR CHOIRS FOR AN IONA-STYLE BIG-SING: a delightful event at which you will be taught to sing songs from around the world both in harmony and unaccompanied. With nothing but our voices, we will raise a glorious sound! No prior music experience is necessary – just a love for music and singing. This will be led by previous music director of the Iona community in Scotland, Mary VanHouten. We will come together and sing in the church on Wednesday evening, October 22 from 7:00-8:00 pm.

COME WISH US BON VOYAGE!
Members of the adult choirs from St. Louis, St. Rita’s, and Faith Lutheran Church have been working hard to prepare a one hour concert that they will perform in Paris this November. The group is led by directors Stephanie Honz, Chris Yule, and Dianne Christensen, and will include works for choir, saxophone, and virtuoso organ literature. Our concert in Paris is in the 1612 Baroque St. Louis Church! We will offer a free practice run through at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 26 with reception to follow. We would love your support! These 56 travelers will enjoy an 8 day tour of Normandy, Paris, and Lourdes from November 4-12.

Join Our Young Ones!
The next St. Louis School Mass is scheduled for Friday, October the 31st at 9:10 AM.

With our Saints on parade, an inspiring time for all: mark your calendar now!

YOU are invited! (Bring along someone who may be considering sending a child to Catholic School!)

St. Louis School Open House

*Wednesday, November 5
Thursday, November 6
9:15 am - 2:30 pm*

Join us for a Harvest Dinner
at the
November Bistro Night
featuring:
Maple Glazed Pork Tenderloin
Herb Mashed Potatoes
Roasted Vegetables
Devil’s Food Cake w/Raspberry Ganache!

Saturday, November 1st @ 5:45 pm
Parish Meeting Hall
BYOB!

$12.00 per adult

Please reserve your spot with Birdie, by paying in advance at the Ministry Center. Seating is limited.

Eat, Drink, Mix and Mingle!

JOIN US AS WE PRAY FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL:
The annual Blue Mass honoring law enforcement personnel in our community will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2014, at 11:15 a.m., at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano will preside. All are welcome to attend. Sacred Heart Cathedral is located at 296 Flower City Park, between Dewey and Lake avenues, in Rochester.
The next St. Louis Knights of Columbus Council meeting is this Monday, October 20 in the Parish Meeting Hall. All our meetings start at 6:45 PM with the Rosary followed by the business meeting at 7:00 PM. All brother Knights who are 1st Degree or higher are encouraged to attend.

The Membership Chairman will speak about the Membership Drive taking place in the near future. The next order of this meeting will be Nominations and Election for Council Warden, currently a vacant office. All 3rd Degree Knights are eligible to run for this office. Any questions, please contact the Grand Knight, Richard Whelehan at 585-797-4638 or wheels282@rochester.rr.com.

Join the St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus second annual pizza tasting and competition. Come and taste the delicious pizza offered by six local favorite pizzerias and vote for your favorite! The event is Saturday, October 18 at 6:00 pm in the St. Joseph School Gym located at 39 Gebhardt Road, Penfield. Cost is $6 per person or $15 per family. For more information or tickets, please call Ross Giardino at 585-750-4740. Tickets can also be purchased at the door.

Angels Needed Now:
If you are one of those women who like to iron and have a willingness to serve our Lord in a special way, this request is for you. Come join a group of holy and humble women who maintain the purificators used to wipe the chalice at Mass. You have seen the cloth that is used when you receive the Blood of Christ. Please consider making a sacrifice by giving one week of your time once a year to assist. Please phone Marie Vasile at 248-0064. Thank you!

WHAT HAPPENS AT MASS
Join our parish book study this fall! We’re reading an incredible book that will change the way you experience Mass. Fr. Jeremy Driscoll’s book, What Happens at Mass explains the significance of each part of the Mass, the gestures, symbols, and movements. Explore the ideas of sacrament and mystery and discover that every Mass is a profound encounter with Jesus Christ. Books can be purchased at the Ministry Center for $13 or from Liturgy Training Publications. If you’d like to join a discussion group, books can be purchased at the first meeting.

We hope you’ll be able to join one of the following groups: Monday 7:00 p.m., in the Manse, facilitator Kathryn McAlarney

WHAT’S IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?
Payment of taxes is unlikely to be a disputed issue in your family. Yet families can still learn something from this week’s Gospel reading. Jesus’ answer to the Herodians and Pharisees redirects their question to focus on the issue of greatest importance: loving and honoring God. Taking this perspective can help us make good judgments about the competing issues of importance in our lives.

In today’s Gospel Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue their tense exchange of questions and challenges. At this point the disciples of the Pharisees, together with the Herodians, try to entrap Jesus by their question about the payment of taxes.

Jesus' response to this attempt to trap him exposes the guile of his questioners. From his first words to them, Jesus shows that he is very much aware of what they are trying to do. He asks to see a Roman coin, which is readily provided to him. It may have come from the hand of a Herodian, but the Pharisees show themselves to be quite willing to accept this compromise. Jesus has already exposed the Pharisees as hypocrites.

Jesus takes his response one step further. He asks that his questioners examine the coin. Agreeing that it is Caesar's image on the coin, Jesus tells them that it must belong to Caesar. Avoiding the question of lawfulness altogether, Jesus answers their question with simple logic. Then, going further still, Jesus tells them that their obligation is to pay to God that which belongs to God.

In today’s Gospel Jesus reminds us of the necessity of giving things their proper importance. The Herodians and Pharisees were giving too much importance to the issue of the payment of taxes. Jesus reminds them that loving and honoring God is of greater importance. In family life we do many important things, but we remember God is of the greatest importance in our lives.

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