



SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIOCESE OF PEORIA PRINCETON, ILLINOIS
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 26, 2020



"Lord, you will show us the path of life."

-Psalm Response



Livestreaming Mass Schedule

Masses livestreamed on FaceBook
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at Noon
Special Children's Mass Friday at 9 am
Thursday at 5:00 pm
Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm,

Sunday *No Mass livestream on Sunday. The Sunday Mass will be livestreamed and posted the night before.*

Holy Hour is livestreamed on FaceBook Thursday
from 3:30—4:30 pm

Confession: Drive-Thru Church Parking Lot

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 3pm
Saturday 2:30—3:30 pm

[Click here to watch video NEW Confession Procedure](#)

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER GIFFORD

“Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.” These words describe a common experience of the Resurrection. His disciples, even His closest friends, do not recognize Him. They needed to have their eyes opened. How often is that the case for us, that we don't recognize Him? Do we recognize that He is with us in these very different, often difficult days? As we ask to have our eyes opened, so that we can recognize Him, let us remember the lesson we learned from last weekend's Gospel. *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet still believe.* Mysteriously, part of the key to recognizing the Risen Christ in our midst is that we must first believe, then we will begin to see. We must have the faith enough to begin to see as He sees. If you recall, this is the purpose for one of the slogans I introduced for this year: Praying for 20/20 Vision. We begin to see more clearly when we are willing to have faith enable us to see reality as He sees it. *We do believe, Lord, help our unbelief. Help us to trust You enough to recognize where You are at work and begin to see as You see. Amen.*

We returned to this theme this week, as we moved into the Easter Season, which remains beyond the initial celebration of the Easter Octave. In these days that we begin to look back and see all things anew in the light of the Resurrection, it is a fitting time to reconsider our theme for the year: Contemplate the Humility of Christ. Humbling ourselves before the Lord is a necessary step on the path toward that 20/20 Vision (as Proverbs 1:7 tells us, "the fear of the Lord is the first stage of wisdom"). This is why these slogans have converged in a monthly Holy Hour for different topics, which we need to begin to see more clearly and recover our vision of the beauty that God sees. Once a month, we unite in prayer placing a specific intention beneath the banner of "Praying for 20/20 Vision as we Contemplate the Humility of Christ." Just as we haven't let the regulations of our current situation stop us from offering Mass and various devotions, which can be accessed through Facebook and YouTube, so also we went ahead with our plan to offer our April "2020 Vision Holy Hour" this past Tuesday for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life, in collaboration with the Office for Priestly Vocations for the Catholic Diocese of Peoria.

How does this prayer for the humility of faith, which will enable us to begin to see as God sees, fit into a Holy Hour for Vocations to Priesthood and Consecrated Life? It has to do with the fact that we struggle to see the purpose of this life clearly. The deepest level of deception that gives birth to this confusion might be called selfishness, often justified by being dressed up in more palatable language of "self-fulfillment." Casually, we often throw out slogans that may be well intended enough, such as "Do what makes you happy," without really beginning to ask the question of what happiness really is. Indeed, these notions of happiness and fulfillment are truly deeply tied to one another, as well as to the mystery of vocation. However, one of the great ironies of life can be found in the fact that we will certainly not find fulfillment by seeking to fulfill ourselves. Rather, as the Second Vatican Council clearly and succinctly put it: "Man cannot find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." How many have gone through a portion of their life seeking their own personal fulfillment only to find that they have wasted this portion of their life, as they still feel that their lives are empty and lacking deeper meaning? We begin to discover deeper meaning the moment that we make a choice not to live simply for ourselves. As many others have observed, I have personally seen this desire alive in the young people of the world, now spanning multiple generations. Many young people identify with the innate desire, built into us all, to live a life of deeper meaning, by pursuing a selfless life of service and self-donation. In fact, it has borne a culture that is increasingly socially conscious and often blossoms in creative enterprises sincerely aimed at helping one's fellow man. This is certainly a welcome evolution, even when it is manifest within the secular sphere. However, the more selfless and socially conscious one becomes, the more the needs become abundantly and indeed overwhelmingly apparent. Where does one start? How can one possibly meet these vast and diverse needs? How does one avoid the messiah complexes that might threaten to plague one's heart and hijack their good intentions into a feverish pursuit of justice and mercy, which could ultimately lead to self-destruction, if lacking the proper discernment? Often, this leads - in an initially positive movement - to a deeper appreciation of community and cooperation, as we seek to bear the heavy weight together. This inclination to interdependence is borne of the image of God within us, as we are made for communion, by the God who is Himself a communion of Divine Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). That same God bears the heavy weight both with and for us, as we discover anew every time, we pray the Stations of the Cross. However, this unity and cooperation, which so strikingly reflects the Body of Christ beneath the cross, will be a fitting target for the Enemy of our nature, who resents that we are so made in God's image and likeness. So, even those noble aspirations begin to be eroded by competition and the loss of civility when disagreement arises over diverging solutions to common problems. In this thicket of confusion, borne of the brokenness in the world, how is anyone to know how his or her own life can be a gift that makes a difference in the world?

Guidance is clearly needed. Part of the reason Christ established His Church was to offer this kind of guidance, but much of our culture is not interested in that guidance. Perhaps the problem is that they see that guidance as simply promulgations and decrees of moral codes threatening our own personal autonomy. The Church does indeed offer moral teachings which come from Christ, but these are just the framework within which the unique drama of our lives begins to unfold, as we learn to walk humbly with our Merciful God. What if what Christ offers us through the Church is less about rules and more about a relationship with a Father who loves us perfectly and desires our happiness more than we do? What if He has a plan for our lives? What if that plan leads to the greatest possible happiness we could ever discover in this life? What if Our Father has dreams for us that give brilliant new light and clarity to our own dreams? What if He is so enamored with this beautiful plan for our lives, that even when we have wandered far off of the path, He sends His Son, who shares in His Being, to lay down His life for us? What if that same Eternal, Only Begotten Son rose from the dead, that we may discover the newness of a life lived in that brilliant light we discovered when we first glimpsed His dream for our lives? What if the Risen Son wants to open our eyes to the fact that He has drawn near to us along the way and that He is the One for whom our hearts are burning? And what if the moment our eyes are opened to recognize Him, we decide to turn around and change directions? What if that change of direction reveals that we are swept into a glorious story already unfolding? What if that story is the dream for our lives hidden in the heart of Our Father?

THANK YOU: I want to take a moment to express a very sincere word of gratitude to the many who have continued to financially support Saint Louis Parish in these days in which we have been unable to offer Public Mass. I am also grateful for all who have supported the parish by your prayers and by reaching out to your fellow parishioners. This is truly a wonderful parish family, which I am blessed to be able to serve!

PERSONAL THANKS: Amidst all the selfless generosity already mentioned above, I am also humbled by the many cards, messages, and gifts that I personally received both for my recent birthday and for Easter. Thank you! And please know of my prayers for you.

STEWARDSHIP

Church Monetary Support April 12, 2020 through April 19, 2020 (6 weeks of Public Mass Suspension)	
Amount Budgeted	\$ 14,500
Amount Received	<u>\$ 9,349</u>
Amount Over/(Under)	(\$ 5,151)
Fiscal period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	
Amount needed to date	\$304,500
Amount received to	<u>\$291,269</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date	(\$13,231)

Your continued desire to provide for your parish, despite the challenging circumstances we are all facing, is deeply appreciated. Parishioners are providing support in the following ways:

- 1) By mailing contributions directly to the parish. Registered parishioners receive a special white envelope addressed to the parish in each of their packets. A standard mailing envelope is fine too! Mail is processed regularly, and all contributions are recorded for your Annual Giving Statement.
- 2) By establishing St. Louis Catholic Church as a vendor in your own bank's bill payment system, and instructing the bank to send a check on a one-time, or recurring basis. This is a fee-free option for all, and you are spared the cost of postage!

Additionally, the Diocese has established a channel to contribute to St. Louis Parish, or any other parish you designate, online through its website.

We remain grateful for the personal sacrifice each contribution represents, and we pledge to remain careful stewards of the treasure you place in our trust. St. Barnabas, pray for us!

St. Louis Parish 2020 Greenhouse Plant Sale



Greenhouse sale opens next weekend
Saturday May 2 5:30 —7 pm and Sunday Noon—2 pm! Flowers, Tomatoes, Peppers, and other plants available. Price: \$2.00 per 6 pack or 4" Pot

NO CHANGE WILL BE GIVEN – Please give exact amount, up to a donation amount or bring your checkbook! Thank you! Jan, Jim, Julie and Cathy

Pastor Parish Staff
Fr Daniel Gifford
Email: stl.fr.gifford@gmail.com

Deacon
John Murphy
Wk: 664-1155/Hm: 646-4723

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YouTube Channel: [St Louis Parish in Princeton](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

HE DIED FOR YOU

Let us gaze upon the cross of our Lord with humility, gratitude, and love until the realization sinks deep into our hearts that He died for me. Confident in His love, grateful for His Compassion, renewed in the mercy and the meaning and hope that He brings into our suffering; let us pray this prayer before a crucifix attributed to St. Francis:

"All Highest, glorious God, cast your light into the darkness of my heart and give me right faith, firm hope, perfect charity, and profound humility with wisdom and perception, Oh Lord, so that I may do what is truly your will." Amen





Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Masses will be livestreamed on Facebook at times listed below and then posted on YouTube

Monday, April 27 Easter Weekday

Noon +Lois McKeown by Tim & Aggie Smith

Tuesday, April 28 St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest

Noon +Dorothy Bebej by Mary Beth Dever

Wednesday, April 29 St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church

Noon +Stanley Pearson by Mary Paula Schmitt

Thursday, April 30 St. Pius V, Pope

3:30—4:30 pm *Holy Hour*

5:00 pm +Richard Kunkel by Richard DeBord

Friday, May 1 St. Joseph the Worker

*9:00 am +James Prendergast

Saturday, May 2 Vigil of Fourth Sunday of Easter

4:00 pm + Mike Milligan by Irene Milligan

Sunday, May 3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

No Mass livestreams on Sunday. The Sunday Mass will have been livestreamed and posted the night before.

People of the Parish

+Special Intention

+Ann Ehrmantraut

* Children's Mass for Peru Catholic School

O JESUS

IN UNION WITH YOUR MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD Poured OUT ON THE CROSS AND OFFERED IN EVERY MASS, I OFFER YOU TODAY MY PRAYERS, WORKS, JOYS, SORROWS AND SUFFERINGS FOR THE PRAISE OF YOUR HOLY NAME AND ALL THE DESIRES OF YOUR SACRED HEART; IN REPARATION FOR SIN, FOR THE CONVERSION OF SINNERS, THE UNION OF ALL CHRISTIANS AND OUR FINAL UNION WITH YOU IN HEAVEN.



Readings for the week of April 26, 2020

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [11a]/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35

Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66: 1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59

St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26—2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf.17b]/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

Next Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

BIGGEST YOUTH NIGHT EVER

High School Youth Ministry - Any 8th grade or high school aged student is invited to participate in a weekly Sunday night virtual event called Project YM Live! Thousands of teenagers from around the country watch a live streamed event that has awesome Catholic speakers and musicians who encourage the youth in their faith during this difficult time. If you are interested in participating, contact Caylee Kennedy for more information.

Email: stl.cayleekennedy@gmail.com

Also, Caylee and her youth ministry volunteers are working to find many different engaging activities for both jr. high and high schoolers, so check out the parish and the youth ministry social media accounts for other opportunities such as Bible Studies, small groups, or individual activities to participate in!

Instagram: [stl_youth_ministry](https://www.instagram.com/stl_youth_ministry)

Twitter: [@stl_youthmin](https://twitter.com/stl_youthmin)



Please remember to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially from St. Louis Parish!

*St. Therese, Patroness of
Vocations, pray for us!*

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

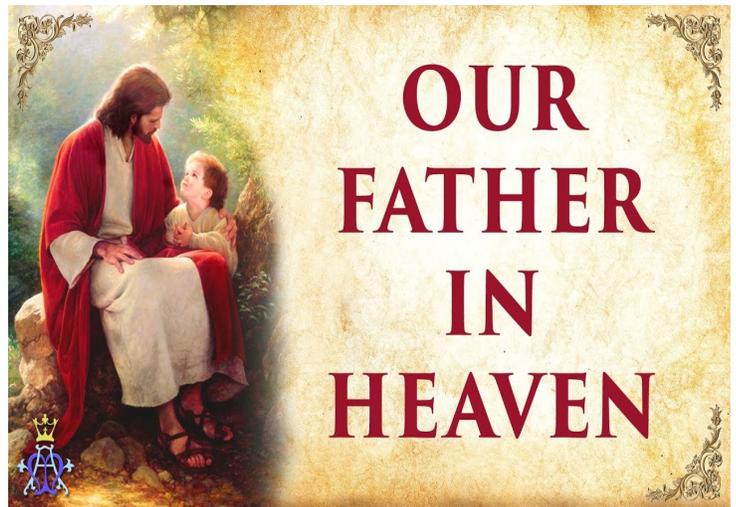
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd



When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, Jesus responded with The Lord's Prayer. So naturally, we have a corresponding 'prayer/work material' to incorporate this prayer in the Atrium. This prayer permeates our liturgy today. It is part of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours as well as the celebration of the Eucharist and any additional Sacramental Rites which take place during the context of the Mass.

At home, consider making this prayer a focal point of your prayer time and prayer table.

- ◆ Pray the Our Father in the morning and at night.
- ◆ Place one line of the Our Father on your prayer table each day in order to ponder just one line at a time.
- ◆ Look up the Our Father in the Bible and see if there are notes which direct you to other Scriptural passages where Jesus says more about an aspect of the prayer.



Children's Livestream Mass

Friday, May 1st the **livestream** Mass will be offered in our Church at **9 AM**, because it will be "co-hosted" by Peru Catholic School and will double as their School Mass. In support of students and families who attend Peru Catholic School, Father Gifford offers their School Mass periodically throughout the year. We hope your family can join us!