

Saint Louis Catholic Church  
Diocese of Peoria Princeton, Illinois  
3rd Sunday of Advent ~ December 13, 2020



*"May the God of peace make you perfectly holy  
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,  
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The one who calls you is faithful,  
and he will also accomplish it."*

*1 Thessalonians 5*

## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER HEPNER

Dear parishioners,

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess 5:16). This statement from St. Paul seems like it should have exceptions, especially this year. The number of COVID-19 cases is on the rise, as one can see from national health statistics or the local obituaries. The loneliness that many feel during the dark days of winter is magnified, and some have gone most of the year without seeing elderly or vulnerable family members. And many are in employment limbo. Add any personal, non-COVID-related tragedy on top of this, and it has been a hard, hard year.

Yet there is St. Paul’s statement, staring us in the face. And Paul was no pollyannish flower child unfamiliar with suffering. He was beaten, shipwrecked, stoned almost to death, rejected by his own people, weary from travelling, and constantly concerned about the many vulnerable churches he had planted in the Mediterranean area. So what do we do with such an absolute, uncompromising statement such as this? Well, we have a choice.

We can assume that St. Paul was talking to some other Christian in a different time or culture, with different problems and a personality more suited to hardships. Or we can pull up our sleeves and do the hard work of faith. That is to say, we can choose to believe, despite the evidence in front our face, in the God-man Jesus Christ, the only one who had the authority to command us to “rejoice always” and give thanks in “*all* circumstances.” Paul goes on to say about Jesus, “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.” The “it” here is our perfection, body and soul, making us “blameless for the coming of Jesus.”

Perfection doesn’t mean we stop suffering in this life. It means we have perfect faith, hope, and love while suffering. I know that seems like a longshot. But God is capable of doing it, and we have to at least aim for it. If we do, and we fall short, then we will spend some time in purgatory, allowing God to purify us so we can enter into heaven. But if we don’t aim for the perfection of saints in heaven, and instead shoot for purgatory – well, you could say that’s a “heck” of a backup plan!

Recently I found an old chalice on a shelf in the sacristy. I have no idea who gave it to the parish or how old it is, but I know it was beautiful when it was first made. It is tall, elegant, with intricate two-tone gold

decorations sprawling up its base. Now it’s in bad shape, so I took it to be re-plated. This beautiful chalice once held the blood of Christ, and, after some purification and some new gold, it will once again be a worthy vessel.

I won’t pretend to understand the process by which God makes us worthy vessels. I’ve been on the losing end of some arguments with him about it, as I’m sure you have. But I do have the benefit of hindsight, and I can see how Jesus has used every circumstance – even those of 2020 – to form me in faith, hope, and charity. “The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.” I pray that we can each take these words into the deepest recesses of our hearts and carry them with us into the unknown hardships of the future.

One person at St. Louis who has had a joyful attitude throughout hardship and hard work is Bill “get ‘er done” Uher, whom Fr. Gifford hired as maintenance man. Bill has saved the parish countless amounts of money by taking on projects, working with other parishioners, and getting the best bids. He and his wife Beth have been members of St. Louis for over 30 years and his love for his parish is only surpassed by his love for his family – especially Beth. Unfortunately, Bill had to step away from the job, and he is already greatly missed, not the least because I actually had to go to the store to buy eggs instead of Bill delivering fresh ones directly to me from his farm!

Thankfully, Tim Hermeyer has accepted the position as part-time maintenance person, and he brings a huge wealth of experience and love for the parish as well. Bill and the buildings and grounds committee have our facilities in great shape, and I know Tim will carry that forward. Please pray for both Tim and Bill and their families, and thank God for all the generous parishioners who lend their time and talent to make our Church a beautiful, worthy place for Jesus – a sign of God’s plan for each of us! Rejoice always!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Tim Hepner



### **Parish Staff**

**Administrator** Fr Tim Hepner  
stl.frtimothyhepner@gmail.com  
**Deacon** John Murphy  
Wk: 664-1155/Hm: 646-4723  
**Trustees** Dan Legner  
Mary Paula Schmitt  
**Admin Assistant** Paula Lough  
**Business Manager** Renee Toomey  
**RCIA Coordinator** Susanna Prushinski  
stl.susannaprushinski@gmail.com  
**Religious Ed Coordinator** Rebekah Mead  
stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com  
**Project Coordinator/  
Compliance Manager** Cathy Trowbridge  
stl.cathytrowbridge@gmail.com  
**Janitorial** Frances Hanley  
**Maintenance** Tim Hermeyer

### **Parish Office**

616 S Gosse Blvd., Princeton, IL 61356

**Office hours:** **Currently Closed Due to COVID-19**

To continue to serve you, we are checking voicemail and emails daily Monday thru Friday.

Phone: (815) 879-0181

E-mail: stlparishoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.stlouisprinceton.org

YouTube Channel: youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton

FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

### **Mass Intentions**

Monday, December 14 **St. John of the Cross, Priest and**

**Doctor of the Church**

7 am +Robert Walter  
by Dave & Mary Hutchison

Tuesday, December 15 **Advent Weekday**

4-5:00 pm Holy Hour  
5:15 pm +Mike Milligan

Wednesday, December 16 **Advent Weekday**

7:00 am +Esther Moloney by Amie Neiman

Thursday, December 17 **Advent Weekday**

4-5:00 pm Holy Hour  
5:15 pm +Stevie Puhr

Friday, December 18 **Advent Weekday**

7 am +James Prendergast

Saturday, December 19 **Vigil of 4th Sunday of Advent**

4:00 pm +Hank and Beverly Donnelly by their family

Sunday, December 20 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

7:30 am +Dane Arnold by Joanne Stocking  
9:30 am +People of the Parish  
11:30 am +Joan Smith by James B. Miller

### **A Holy Hour for Life**

**Benediction, Rosary, and other Prayers**



All are welcome to gather in prayer on the fourth Sunday of each month from 6-7 pm in the Church for the intention of respect for the sacredness of all human life.

**Please join us Sunday, December 27th**

## *Lectio* **DIVINA**

### **Readings for the week of December 13, 2020**

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



### **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.

## Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

### 4:00 pm: Saturday, December 19

Lectors Cathy Trowbridge  
Ushers Al & Judy Taylor  
Cleaners Bystry & Larsen Families

### 7:30 am: Sunday, December 20

Lectors Julie Hassler  
Ushers Gary Blessman & Dennis Thompson  
Cleaners Gary & Marcia Blessman

### 9:30 am: Sunday, December 20

Lectors Steve Harmon  
Ushers Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker  
Cleaners Quint Quiram, Jim Whitaker, Steve Bouslog

### 11:30 am: Sunday, December 20

Lectors David Roden  
Ushers Ken & Paula Lough  
Cleaners Lough Family, Mary Beth Crowe

## ADA ONLINE DONATIONS STEP BY STEP

The Diocese has created an option to contribute to the Annual Diocesan Appeal through its web-site. The following are the steps to make and pay your pledge online, if this is an alternative you would prefer:

- Please fill out a pledge card, and select the ONLINE option. ***IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU STILL RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD TO THE PARISH, IN ORDER FOR YOUR DONATION TO COUNT TOWARD THE ST. LOUIS PARISH GOAL!***
- To schedule payments, go to [www.cdop.org](http://www.cdop.org) and click the 2020 ADA Online Donations button in the right top corner.
- If you want to make a one-time donation for your ADA pledge, this can be processed on any day. If you plan to schedule monthly payments, you may select processing on either the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- Please double check you have selected "St. Louis, Princeton" from the drop down list!
- Also note: there will be no reminders sent to online donors.

Currently \$41,848.00 has been pledged toward our goal of \$86,484.00. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, please return your card to the parish office as soon as possible, taking advantage of the many ways offered to make your donation!

## ST. LOUIS SCHEDULE

### MASS SCHEDULE

MON, WED, FRI	7:00 AM
TUE, THR	5:15 PM
SAT	4:00 PM
SUN	7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM

(SAT 4 PM Live-streamed on FaceBook and broadcast Sunday at noon on WZOE 1490 AM )

### OUTDOOR DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(AT ANDERSON ST ENTRANCE)

SAT	5:00—5:15 PM
SUN	10:30—10:45 AM

### ADVENT CONFESSIONS

For Advent, we are adding additional confession times on **Fridays**. All confessions will be in the St. Jerome Room.

***Please wait in the main body of the Church, rather than in the chapel.*** Please feel free to call or email to make an appointment for confession.

### Here are all confession times:

Tuesday - 4:30-4:50pm  
Wednesday - 3-3:30pm  
Thursday - 4:30-4:50pm  
**Friday** - 6:30-7am, 3-3:30pm, 6-7pm  
Saturday - 3-3:45pm

### HOLY HOUR

TUE, THR 4:00 PM

### PRIVATE PRAYER

**Chapel is now open for Private Prayer— same access code as before - if you need the code please contact the parish office.**

## STEWARDSHIP

Church Monetary Support  
through December 6, 2020

Amount Budgeted	\$ 6,500.00
Amount Received	<u>\$10,321.00</u>
Amount Over/(Under)	\$ 3,821.00

Fiscal Period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Amount needed to date	\$149,500.00
Amount Received to date:	<u>\$141,412.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date	\$ (8,088.00)



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!***



### Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24th

Masses at \*4PM, 7PM and 10PM

**Christmas Day** - Friday, December 25th Mass at 9AM

No reservations required—seating will be first come first seated with overflow seating available in Harkrader Hall  
\*4PM Mass will be livestreamed on FaceBook

### Vigil of Mary, Mother of God -

Thursday, December 31: Mass at 5:15PM

### Feast of Mary, Mother of God -

Friday, January 1: Masses at 9AM & 5:15PM

## Meet Our Seminarian

### Nicholas Conner

#### Birth Date

April 26, 1996

#### Parish Location

Holy Family, Peoria

#### Year entered the Seminary/Class of

Entered in 2018, Class of 2024

#### Studying at

Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, MD

#### Why did you become a seminarian?

After graduating from Peoria Notre Dame, I got involved with the Newman Center community at Illinois State University. There I discovered a universal call to holiness, no matter my vocation. I formed valuable friendships during this time, enabling me to learn about struggles I had never personally encountered. I was able to walk with my friends who were going through various trials and allow them to help me with my own. My love for my friends is where my calling to the priesthood matured. I came to understand a priest not as someone who secludes himself from the world, but as a man who lives for others. I gradually began to desire "laying down my life" for my brothers and sisters.

#### Before you entered the seminary, what were you doing?

I graduated from ISU with a degree in finance. I then spent a year working at Pekin Insurance while actively discerning the priesthood.

#### An interesting fact about you

I have played ice hockey since I was 3 and consider myself an expert on the history of the Detroit Red Wings.



## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

### Christmas Art Contest!

Looking for something fun you can do at home? Need a break from schoolwork or shopping? Feeling creative? Create your own image of the Nativity in any medium you like - drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, etc. - and send a photo of it to Rebekah Mead at [stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com](mailto:stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com) or 815-303-2330 by December 24. We'll feature your artwork on the parish Facebook page throughout the 12 days of Christmas. Open to parishioners of all ages! Some prizes will be offered, but the main point is to have fun and focus on the beauty of Christ's birth.

### CCW Christmas Memorial Flowers

An order form for Christmas Memorial Flowers is available on the information tables in the Church or you may complete an online form go to our website [stlouisprincetontn.org](http://stlouisprincetontn.org) and mail your check. Please submit your forms by December 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Irene Milligan at 352-502-6754. Thank You for helping us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!!



**Parish Update:** The former convent and preschool is demolished. I'm sure this makes many people sad. That sadness is appropriate - there were many faithful sisters who lived there and served St. Louis Parish. And many young children encountered Christ as they began at St. Louis School. So it is okay to mourn. But with the hope Christ gives us, it is also good to look forward to the amazing things that God will do in this parish as we adapt and continue to proclaim the Gospel to Bureau County.

The decision to demolish the preschool was not an easy one. Fr. Gifford consulted the parish groups (finance committee, buildings and grounds, and parish council) and many options were explored. Even though the exterior was beautiful, the interior was not fit for anyone to live or work in, and it would have required a lot of time and money to restore.

Ultimately, we're blessed with the right amount of space at St. Louis and we didn't need this space. Unfortunately you can't really move a brick house, therefore we couldn't sell it. So prudence led to this decision.

For now the space will be seeded with grass, which will grow in the spring as a sign of new life - the new life that the Father is always pouring into our parish. And people will have a new view of our beautiful Church, as a sign of the ever-present invitation to become part of the community that Jesus founded. We are always open to the ideas and desires of parishioners with regards to what should take the place of the grade school - green space, more parking, and/or perhaps a sign welcoming people to our parish.