

First Sunday of
ADVENT



Saint Louis Catholic Church
Diocese of Peoria ~ Princeton, Illinois
November 29th 2020

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER HEPNER

Dear parishioners,

I've considered myself a connoisseur of irony ever since I had my phone stolen while buying a picture of St. Anthony one summer in Mexico. The fact that the patron of lost and stolen items allowed me to lose something I fundamentally depended on actually made me laugh, even as I worried about what to do next. So it is somewhat funny to me that I have been writing a bulletin series about interpersonal communion and I've found myself in lockdown because of a positive COVID diagnosis during the week of Thanksgiving – when families ordinarily come together and “enjoy” each other's company. I say “enjoy” because, in my family, we usually just end up reminiscing about the Thanksgiving 25 years ago when my sister angrily hurled the butter across the table at my brother.

Anyway, by the time you're reading this I'll be out of my imposed solitude, COVID-free, with blood veins full of antibodies. And I will pick up the series on forming communion at this point, including your suggestions! But this being the First Sunday of Advent, I wanted to take a break from that series and invite you to make this Advent 2020 the best yet. There are approximately 5 million reasons why it's great to be Catholic, and reason #3,208 is Advent. For us as Catholics, it's not enough to simply celebrate one of the most important events in human history ever year. Instead, we get a running start with four weeks of spiritual preparation so that we can make the most out of it. At Christmas we celebrate the first visible coming of Christ into the world, and Advent is period of silent, excited preparation to get ready for Him.

So I'm asking each of you to do two things during Advent which will sound familiar: Pray 15 minutes a day with the Gospels and go to confession (if possible). If you haven't noticed, I've been doing a video series on lectio divina, which is prayerful reading with Sacred Scripture. You can access it through our parish Facebook and YouTube pages. Lectio is pretty simple, and it has 5 easy steps that each start with R: Ready, Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest. You can repeat steps, or stay with whatever helps you to pray. It's not a formula to create prayer, but a loose guide to having a conversation and remaining in relationship with God:

Ready: Settle into a place and a position that you can focus. Have the Gospel passage that you will pray with at hand with your Bible, missalette, or Magnificat open. You can use the Gospel for the upcoming Sunday, for the current day, or simply one that you've enjoyed praying with. To find the Gospel passage go to usccb.org/readings. Now invite the Holy Spirit and ask

him for the grace to help you focus on what he is saying to you.

Read: Read the Gospel passage slowly. Don't try to analyze it, just seek to understand what the human and divine authors are saying. Pay attention to the words, phrases, or images that jump out at you. Read through again if need be, then just focus your reading on the part that seems most important.

Reflect: Think about what popped out at you. Ask questions. Focus on the thoughts, feelings, and desires that arise as a result. Try to summarize what happened or picture yourself in the scene if it seems hard to focus or understand. How is God correcting, comforting, challenging, inspiring, loving, responding to, or caring for you through this passage?

Respond: What do you want to say to him in return? Remember A.C.T.S. – Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Speak to Jesus as a friend or brother, to the Father as a good and loving dad, and to the Holy Spirit as one who is closer to you than you are to yourself. Speak honestly from the heart. If, after a time, there is a resolution, answer, or inspiration, write a brief summary of it down.

Rest: If God gives you the gift of contemplation, simply enjoy his presence and rest in it. This isn't something we can achieve ourselves – it's a gift of God that we can only prepare for. Know that the point of a relationship is not to accomplish something or feel productive, but simply to be with. If this gift doesn't come, make an act of faith, hope, or love of God and thank him for the time of prayer.

That's it! That's how you pray lectio. Do you think you can do that for 15 minutes a day? And, regarding confession: Please see the inside of this bulletin for additional hours added on Fridays. We will also have confessions between masses on at least one Sunday during Advent. If you are unable to come to confession at the times listed, please call the office and let us know. Remember, if it's been a long time since you've been to confession, the angels and saints are in heaven cheering you on. They will be the first to rejoice when you step in to receive the Father's mercy!

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Tim Hepner

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!

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Parish Office

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

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

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YouTube Channel: youtube.com/user/stlouisprinceton

FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 30 **St. Andrew, Apostle**
7 am +Mary Ellen Dugosh

Tuesday, December 1 **Advent Weekday**
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour
5:15 pm +Thurman William & William Joseph (B.J.)
Archer by Mary Archer

Wednesday, December 2 **Advent Weekday**
7:00 am +Mary Miller by Bill & Sue Phalen

Thursday, December 3 **St. Francis Xavier, Priest**
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour
5:15 pm +Gary Coates

Friday, December 4 **St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor**
7 am +Hank Donnelly by Tim & Paula Anderson

Saturday, December 5 **Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Advent**
4:00 pm +Hank Skibinski by Jim & Sharon Smith

Sunday, December 6 **Second Sunday of Advent**
7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am +Liliana Maeve Sutton by the Sutton's
11:30 am +Tom Makransky



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.



Readings for the week of November 29, 2020

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10]/Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-6 /Mt 9:35—10:1, 5, 6-8

Next Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/ Mk 1:1-8

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, December 5

Lectors Joanne Stocking
Sacristan Mandy Robinson
Ushers Al & Judy Taylor
Cleaners Bystry & Larsen Families

7:30 am: Sunday, December 6


Lectors Margaret Martinkus
Sacristan Lori Atilano
Ushers Gary Blessman & Dennis Thompson
Cleaners Gary & Marcia Blessman

9:30 am: Sunday, December 6

Lectors Steve Bouslog
Sacristan Chris Romagnoli
Ushers Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker
Cleaners Quint Quiram, Jim Whitaker, Steve Bouslog

11:30 am: Sunday, December 6

Lectors Patty Daluga
Sacristan Linda Carter
Ushers Bob Hartwig, Ken Lough
Cleaners Lough Family, Mary Beth Crowe



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.

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.

"The exhortation to be watchful resounds many times in the liturgy, especially in Advent, a season of preparation not only for Christmas, but also for Christ's definitive and glorious coming at the end of time. It therefore has a distinctly eschatological meaning and invites the believer to spend every day and every moment in the presence of the One "who is and who was and who is come" (Rv 1:4), to whom the future of the world and of man belongs. This is Christian hope! Without this prospect, our existence would be reduced to living for death." - St. John Paul II

STEWARDSHIP

Due to the early holiday submission deadline, totals were not available at the time of printing this bulletin . We will provide the totals for November 22nd in the December 6th bulletin.



ADVENT



HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

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The Advent Wreath Blessing

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says: Our help is in the name of the Lord. Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth. Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read: Reader: The Word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God. With hands joined, the leader says: Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen. The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel": O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind; bid ev'ry sad division cease and be thyself our Prince of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. — From Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, but white candles can also be used. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle



is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass; Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead. - Obtained from USCCB.org

Support for our Brothers and Sisters in Haiti

For many years, Saint Louis Parish has provided financial support to our sister parish in La Montagne, Haiti, and financial support to a medical team that frequently travels from Illinois to our sister parish to minister directly to the people there. Despite the difficult conditions COVID has created in our area, and worldwide, the parishioners at St. Louis have provided \$10,500 in support thus far in 2020. The following is a letter of appreciation recently received from the medical team:

Dear St. Louis Congregation-

On behalf of Friends of the Children, we humbly thank you for your very generous donation. The current situation with COVID has prevented us from traveling to Haiti. However, our years of training the local health care workers (Caritas) and our excellent relationship with a local doctor – Dr. Oberson – has allowed our clinics to continue. We have successfully shipped the medicines and supplies necessary to run the clinics. We are happy to report that our patients – especially those with chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, are receiving a continuous supply of their daily medications. We hope to return to Haiti as soon as it is safe! Thank you again!

— Dr. John and Linda Underwood

