



# SAINT LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

DIOCESE OF PEORIA PRINCETON, ILLINOIS | 815-879-0181 | STLPARISHOFFICE@GMAIL.COM

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2020**

## THE HOLY FAMILY



The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;  
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40



## A MESSAGE FROM FATHER HEPNER

Dear parishioners,

I don't know if I should admit this, but I have listened to over 100 hours of a podcast on the history of the English language. I know, that's weird. The only explanation I can offer is that I love the English language, I drove a lot as vocation director, and I got tired of listening to music and the news. One thing I am fascinated with is how words have changed over time. Did you know that "nice" once meant "silly, foolish, or simple" or that "fizzle" once referred to the act of releasing quiet flatulence? I bet you'll think about that next time you hear those words!

Sometimes it's okay when words change. Language evolves and updates, and that's alright. Other times, though, we lose something when a word switches meanings. I'm as guilty as anyone of overusing the word "awesome." It literally means "full of awe," and is best used for moments that truly fill us with wonder and veneration, like the Rocky Mountains on a bright summer day, or seeing a newborn for the first time, or experiencing Christmas Eve Mass in our beautiful Church. Another word that has lost some meaning is "blessing." I'm not saying we shouldn't "count our blessings" or say "God bless her" (though if you're in the South I'm told that is usually followed by a subtle insult). But we also shouldn't forget what a blessing really is.

The Hebrew root *berakah* is the act of "imparting vital power to another person, thus giving another a part of the blessing of one's soul originally bestowed by God" (historian Derek Revard). God's words have power, since he spoke the universe into existence and he spoke life into our souls. As humans, our words have power too, and we can echo those powerful words of God. One of the holiest priests I've ever met was my seminary rector, who constantly told us, "You are good men." It was no trite saying, he meant it from the depths of his heart, and it was a simple, direct way of affirming us that actually helped us grow into *better* men. Parents can bless their children, over whom God gave them authority: "A father's blessing gives a person firm roots" (Sirach 3:9). And, of course there is special power in a priest's blessing.

Often people will ask for my blessing before they travel or have a surgery (the latter of which can be accompanied with the sacrament of anointing of the sick). This can be more common in other cultures, but I love giving out my priestly blessing. It is free, it only costs me a few seconds, and it's one of the most

effective things I can do in any situation. A few years ago, the chief exorcist of Rome said that he brought a woman to a papal audience to be blessed by Pope Benedict. When the pope came by making the sign of the cross repeatedly over the people, this woman was thrown backwards and was freed of the evil spirit. The Vatican's official response was simply that the pope didn't purposely exorcise her, which just goes to show how powerful the blessing of a holy man and a pope can be: without even realizing it, Pope Benedict blessed this woman and freed her from spiritual bondage.

But there is a blessing that is more powerful than any priest's, pope's, or saint's, and that is the blessing, or "benediction," of Jesus himself. We are blessed to have this opportunity every Tuesday and Thursday, at the end of 4pm adoration (and many Wednesdays as at 7pm). The priest or deacon wraps his arms in the humeral veil to emphasize that he is not the one giving the blessing, picks up the monstrance, and makes the sign of the cross over everyone with the Blessed Sacrament. This is the most powerful blessing that can be given on earth. It is the direct blessing of Jesus, who healed the sick, raised the dead, and gave new life and joy.

On New Year's Eve I would like to have Jesus bless the entire year of 2021 for each of us. I want his powerful grace to be poured out on all of the events, both big and small, that occur in our lives in the year to come. I have no idea what 2021 will be like. Objectively, it could be better or worse than this year. But I do know that there are certain blessings that God only gives us if we ask, and as a good Father he deeply desires to bless this next year. So I invite you to join us, either in the Church or live-stream on our Facebook page, at 11pm on Thursday for Eucharistic adoration, prayers, and midnight benediction. This might be a sacrifice for many – either because you want to go to bed or because you want to go party. But I think I know right where the Father wants many of us. And that is directly in front of his Son, who died and rose to bless us with eternal life. Even if you fall asleep while praying, it's okay. Like a parent who watches their child peacefully sleeping, God will still bless you and take delight in you.

I look forward to giving you the Eucharistic benediction. Until then, may God bless you. And I really do mean that!

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  
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Compliance Manager** Cathy Trowbridge  
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**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 28 **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**  
7 am +Rose Lund by Amie Neiman

Tuesday, December 29 **St. Thomas Becket,  
Bishop and Martyr**

4-5:00 pm Holy Hour  
5:15 pm +Ron Hulslander by Annette Hulslander

Wednesday, December 30 **6th Day within the Octave of the  
Nativity of the Lord**

7:00 am +Joanne Mensch by Jerri Woodlief

Thursday, December 31 **Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary,  
The Holy Mother of God**

\*5:15 pm + Karen Swanson by Amie Neiman  
11:00 pm \*\* Eucharistic Prayer Vigil

Friday, January 1 **Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

\*9 am +Jean Gifford by Gifford Family  
\*5:15 pm +Joan Smith by Gary & Betty Stocking

Saturday, January 2 **Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord**

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

Sunday, January 3 **The Epiphany of the Lord**

7:30 am People of the Parish  
9:30 am +Hank and Beverly Donnelly by their family  
11:30 am +Stacey Brown Ryan by Mandy Robinson

\*Mass for the Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God  
\*\*\*"Make 2021 Not as Horrible as 2020 Prayer Vigil"



## **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.

## **Lectio Divina**



### **Readings for the week of December 28, 2020**

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40  
Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18  
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35  
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40  
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18  
Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21  
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [3cd]/Jn 1:19-28  
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

## Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

### 4:00 pm: Saturday, January 2

Lectors TBD  
 Ushers Dan & Cynthia Tracy  
 Cleaners Bystry & Larsen Families

### 7:30 am: Sunday, January 3

Lectors TBD  
 Ushers Gary Blessman & Dennis Thompson  
 Cleaners Gary & Marcia Blessman, Pat Wiggim

### 9:30 am: Sunday, January 3

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

### 11:30 am: Sunday, January 3

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



## Mass Times

Vigil of Mary, Mother of God -

Thursday, December 31: Mass at 5:15PM

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God -

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

\*Outdoor Distribution of Communion after  
 9AM Mass (Anderson St. Entrance)

*"I long to fly to Mary's mother arms, To  
 rest upon that spotless throne of bliss; And,  
 sheltered there from troubles and alarms,  
 For the first time to feel her gentle kiss."  
 -St. Therese of Lisieux*

## 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

### RECONCILIATION

(ST. JEROME ROOM)

WED, FRI	3-3:30 PM
TUE, THUR	4:30—5 PM
SAT	3-3:45 PM

### HOLY HOUR

TUE, THR	4:00 PM
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### PRIVATE PRAYER

Chapel is 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 13, 2020

Amount Budgeted	\$ 6,500.00
Amount Received	<u>\$ 6,183 .00</u>
Amount Over/(Under)	\$ (317.00)

Fiscal Period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Amount needed to date	\$156,000.00
Amount Received to date:	<u>\$147,595.00</u>
Over/(Under) budget to date	\$ (8,405 .00)

<i>Immaculate Conception</i>	\$ 668.00
Sisters of Mary of the Presentation	\$ 335.00

Due to the early deadline for the holidays, the totals for  
 December 20th were not available and will be provided in the  
 January 2nd bulletin.



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!**





## COME PRAY FOR A BETTER YEAR!

"Stay awake," Jesus tells us. Prayer vigils are an Christian practice. This year let's avoid crowded parties and spend New Year's Eve the best way possible - in a Eucharistic Vigil.

Join us in the Church or FaceBook live stream at 11pm December 31st for the official "Make 2021 Not as Horrible as 2020 Prayer Vigil" with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations, and litanies for our families, parish, country, and world.

We will end at midnight with benediction, in which our Eucharistic Lord will bless the New Year! It's okay if you fall asleep while praying!

*"When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now." - Mother Teresa*

## Rest In Peace

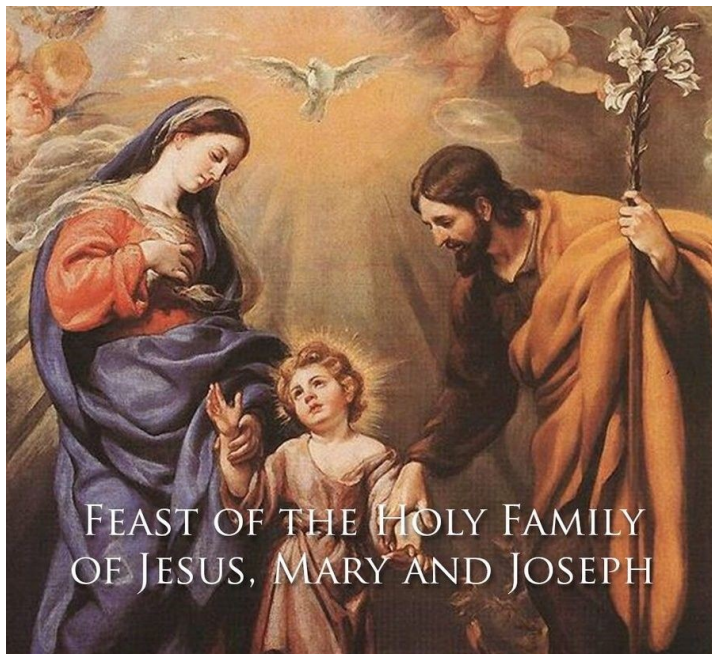
Please pray for the repose of the soul of  
Robert "Bob" Levitt  
and for consolation for his family

*Eternal Rest grant unto his  
O Lord, and let perpetual light  
shine upon his soul.*

On January 4th we will begin Exodus 90, a ninety-day spiritual exercise for men based on three pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraterni-

ty. All three of these pillars are essential aspects of the Christian life. This is a very involved program that has helped countless men to have a profound spiritual conversion and experience of genuine Catholic fraternity unlike any other that they have had. If you are interested, please call or email Fr. Tim (stl.frtimothyhepner@gmail.com).

## A Call to Catholic Men



### A Prayer to the Holy Family, for One's Family

Dear Lord, bless our family. Be so kind as to give us the unity, peace, and mutual love that You found in Your own family in the little town of Nazareth. Saint Joseph, bless the head of our family. Obtain for him the strength, the wisdom, and the prudence he needs to support and direct those under his care. Mother Mary, bless the mother of our family. Help her to be pure and kind, gentle and self-sacrificing. For the more she resembles you, the better will our family be. Lord Jesus, bless the children of our family. Help them to be obedient and devoted to their parents. Make them more and more like You. Let them grow, as You did, in wisdom and age and grace before God and man. Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family and home more and more like Yours, until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with You. Amen.