



ST. LOUIS CHURCH

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

December 28, 2008



Daily Mass Readings

This Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Next Sunday
Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3	1 Jn 2:3-11	1 Jn 2:12-17	1 Jn 2:18-21	Num 6:22-27	1 Jn 2:22-28	1 Jn 2:29-3:6	Is 60:1-6
Ps 105:1-6,8-9	Ps 96:1-3,5-6	Ps 96:7-10	Ps 96:1-2,11-13	Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8	Ps 98:1-4	Ps 98:1-3,6	Ps 72:1-2, 7-8,10-13
Heb 11:8, 11-12,17-19				Gal 4:4-7			Eph 3:2-3,5-6
Lk 2:22-40	Lk 2:22-35	Lk 2:36-40	Jn 1:1-18	Lk 2:16-21	Jn 1:19-28	Jn 1:29-34	Mt 2:1-12

Lectio Divina

While reading sacred scripture, read the words with a love and sense of discovery until something seems to strike home. Sit with the passage as one would with a good friend- not just thinking or analyzing, but instead remaining in a quiet, listening spirit, so the word can nurture and challenge you.

*Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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Call to Prayer

"Let us take a moment in the midst of all our activity to prepare ourselves for prayer."

The Word of God

Choose one of next Sunday's readings.
One person reads the scripture aloud as others are attentive to a word, phrase, or theme that is meaningful to them.
Allow for a minute of silent reflection.
Have another person read the same scripture a second time.

Faith Sharing

Begin with an open ended question such as "What strikes you from this reading?" and/or you can use the "Reflection Question" found on our website or bulletin.
Allow time for reflection & sharing.

Closing Prayer

At the end of the faith sharing, invite participants to pray aloud for any particular petitions or praises they may have. Feel free to close with:
The Lord's Prayer
Spontaneous prayers or A faith-based song

Reflection Question for January 4th

The magi followed a star that led them to Jesus. What, or who, leads me to encounter Jesus in my life?

Mass Intentions for Week of December 28, 2008

Sunday	6:45am	Paula Kerrigan & Donald Rosenkrans
	8:00am	Jane Gossage
	9:30am	Michael & Marie Albanese
	11:15am	Ralph Crane & Marvin McGlothlin
Monday	7:00am	Maria Bochniewicz & Vestelle Thorpy
	8:30am	Mary & Steve Kemper
Tuesday	7:00am	Parishioners
	9:30am	Parishioners
Wednesday	7:00am	Parishioners
	7:00pm	Parishioners
	12:00am	Parishioners
Thursday	8:00am	Jane Gossage
	10:00am	Lorna Fortwengler
	12:00pm	Maria Bochniewicz & Sylvia Slicer
Friday	7:00am	William Santo
	8:30am	Parishioners
Saturday	8:00am	Parishioners
	4:00pm	James A. Murray, Jr. & Fanny Ambrose
	5:30pm	John Thomas

In Your Prayers, Please Remember Those Who Are Sick Especially the People Listed Below

If you would like to have a name put on our sick list, please call the parish office at 410-531-6040. Names on the Sick List will be included for three months. If you would like your name to be listed after the three month period, please call the Parish Office at that time. Thank you.

Gloria Barbaro	Beth Hartner	Ann Richards
Danny Blake	Eileen Kingsley-Hamm	Kathryn Rosewag
Viola Bourcey	Kathy Knouff	Tom Ryan
Joan Brannan	Louise Koontz	Gerry Shaw
Hilda Cashell	Alexandra Lindsay	Lisa Stovall
Dolores Cashman	Bob McCollum	Matthew Sussan
Daniel Comeaux	Charles O'Donnell, Sr.	Robert Thommen
Don Conrad	Carolyn O'Rourke	Betty Tso
Richard Durant	Amanda Post	Roberta Wilhelm
Nancy Endsley	Tammy Randle	Charlotte Williams
Dorothy Franz	Yvonne Rawleigh	John Williams
James Grimes	Rana-Liliyann Rejaie	
Good Friend of the DeJames Family		

PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Our departed friends and loved ones: Dorothy Carani, mother of Lois Carani-Wong; William Hundertmark, husband of Norma Hundertmark, father of Peter Hundertmark and grandfather of Alison.



Dear Parishioners,

Each year on the weekend between Christmas and New Year's Day we celebrate the **Feast of the Holy Family**. We come to Mass with the special intention of praying for our families and all its members and we beseech God's blessing upon each of them.

Ben Sirach, the author of today's first reading has many good things to say about living properly according to God's way. Ben Sirach reminds children of their duty to honor their parents – even when it becomes difficult. He also mentions the two-fold reward which God promises to those who honor their father and mother. The first reward is "riches," and the second is "long life:" *Whoever reveres his father (parents) will live a long life*. He reminds children how God blesses them if they obey, revere and show compassion to their parents.

St Paul in the letter to the Colossians advises us that we should put on love and remain thankful in our relationships with one another. Paul's advice is part of the "Household code" – the rules for members of the Christian family. Though it is dated, belonging to Paul's time in its details, the underlying message of being careful with one another – being full of care – is timeless. Paul teaches that we should learn and practice noble qualities like compassion, kindness, forgiveness and sharing in the warmth of the family.

In a truly holy family all members are respected, cherished, nurtured and supported, united through the bond of love. This is how the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived—our "role models"—and this is the ideal we are invited to imitate.

Monsignor Luca

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Regret is an appalling waste of energy. You can't build on it; it is good only for wallowing.

PARISH MEETINGS THIS WEEK

HS CYM Open Gym	Friday, January 2 Gym	7:00 PM
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PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The parish office will close at 12:30pm on Wednesday, December 31st and reopen at 9am on Saturday, December 3, 2009.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND NOVENA HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

There will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Sunday, December 28. Novena is cancelled on December 29. Thank you.

ST. LOUIS PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKLY FINANCIAL REPORT SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 27th/28th-Building Fund
January 17th/18th-Special Care for Diocesan Priests
January 24th/25th-Building Fund

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

God of all joy and generosity! We thank you for the love you have shared by giving us your Son, Christ Jesus. We did nothing to earn your love. You give it unconditionally. Open our hearts so that we too may be a sign of your gracious, loving presence.

HOWARD COUNTY HOSPITAL CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

In order to better serve Catholic patients at Howard County General Hospital, the Catholic parishes in Howard County are sponsoring a priest to offer pastoral care to patients at the hospital—especially in times of emergency. **Father Edward Szymanski** will be the first priest called in cases of emergency. In a day of more Catholics and fewer priests, Saint Louis is happy to sponsor this effort to provide priestly care for Catholic patients.

CHURCH LINENS

Today by Ms. Hoeck & on January 4th by Ms. Justice.

PARISH INFORMATION TABLE

The Parish Information Table Ministry needs a few volunteers to help out at the table for about 15 minutes after each Mass on weekends, particularly after the Sunday 12:45 Mass. For more information about how you can become part of this important parish ministry, please contact Chris Long, at kkmmc@verizon.net.

ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS

The flowers used to decorate our church sanctuary are available to honor a loved one who is living or deceased. The flowers may also be used as an expression of gratitude to God on special occasions such as anniversaries, birthdays or other significant events. In addition to placing flowers at the Altar in loving memory of someone, you may also acknowledge loved ones, with flowers at the other shrines in our new church. Flowers for the Shrine of St. Louis, Shrine of St. Joseph or the Blessed Mother are \$50 each; Pieta is \$75; Altar Flowers are \$75. Arrangements may be made by calling the parish office (410-531-6040) Monday through Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm. All who are honored will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

DID YOU FORGET TO BRING YOUR CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPE THIS WEEK?

Well now there is an easy remedy...Electronic Contributions. St. Louis now has a program which enables your contributions to be deducted once or twice a month. Contributions to the parish will be automatically deducted from your Savings or Checking account (whichever you prefer). For more information please call the parish office at 410-531-6040 or download a contribution form at www.stlouisparish.org/html/econtribute.htm. Thank you!

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

Vigil Mass—7:00pm

Midnight Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament, Chapel 10:00pm—12:00am

Midnight Mass following Exposition, Chapel—12:00am

Thursday, January 1, 2009

8:00am, 10:00am, 12noon Church

PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM?

Here are a few things to keep in mind.

- Parents must participate in a Baptism Preparation Session before the Baptism date is set.
- The next Baptism Preparation Session will be held on Wednesday, January 14th in Room 301 of the Pastoral Center from 7:15pm to 9:15pm.
- Please register for a session by calling the Parish office at 410-531-6040.
- One godparent must be a practicing Roman Catholic, verified by the godparent's parish.
- Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Louis for at least 6 months.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Please continue to remember the following soldiers in your prayers:

Cpl. Dan Haack, Cpt. Joseph McDonald, Spc. Curtis Campbell, Cpt. Brendan Gallagher, 1st Lt. Matthew Middleton, PFC Joseph Henry, Lt. John Ryan, Capt. Steven Cooper, Capt. Amy Cooper, Lt. Denise Reccardi, Cpt. Brian Geary and Col. Lee dePersia.

WHAT WILL I EXPERIENCE PRAYING AT HILLCREST ABORTION CLINIC IN CATONSVILLE?

We do not speak to anyone entering the building. Sidewalk counseling is done at the entrance to the clinic by trained people. Our ministry is a ministry of prayer; we do not pray at the entrance – we pray on the opposite side of the building on Rt. 40; from the Rt. 40 side so you won't encounter women going into the clinic; the clinic is located on the 6th floor of a 7 story office building 30 ft from the sidewalk; prayer is usually private and silent...you may choose to hold a sign, walk along the sidewalk or kneel while praying; you won't be harassed...this is safe, non-confrontational, peaceful prayer; you won't see graphic photos...people and families of all ages are welcome; we pray the first Saturday of each month between 9-11am. Join us for ten, twenty or thirty minutes of prayer! For more info call Grace Kissane at 410-730-0201.

THE POOR NEED YOUR HELP

Looking for a way to make a difference in the lives of poor people? Among the many ministries here at Saint Louis there is one that is looking for additional helpers. Once a month Saint Louis parishioners feed 700 people at Our Daily Bread – a wonderful place in Baltimore city where poor and homeless people literally sit down for a served meal. No questions are asked about their status. They are simply treated with dignity and respect in an environment of Christian love and compassion.

You can help by preparing chicken pieces according to a simple recipe. Members of our parish prepare the meal in their homes as they would prepare chicken for their family and then drop them off at the home of Mary Agnes Lewis (6005 Ten Oaks Road—across from our parish cemetery) on the **2nd Monday of each month**. Available volunteers then take the food to the facility located on Falls Way Road and serve the meal on the **2nd Tuesday** of each month. For additional information about how you can help, call Mary Agnes Lewis at 410-531-3813.

This is a wonderful way in which a family can work together in preparing a wholesome meal for some of God's special people.

HAITI SNIPPETS

We would like to send out a big thank you to the St. Louis Church Catholic Daughter's of the Americas for their generous donation!

Dr. Bob Brill & Dick Ogan returned safe and sound from Haiti Monday, December 15. Here is a brief summary of Bob's report. The Sister's are healthy and in good spirits. The security on the school compound is an issue, because 75% of the wall is gone. Larry and Dick were able to review the plans for rebuilding the wall with the Haitian engineer, which included designing the wall to prevent future collapse. CRS has promised \$25,000 to go towards rebuilding the wall and the check was supposed to be delivered around Tuesday, December 16. So the Sister's should be able to begin repairs of the wall very soon.

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER THANKS YOU

A heartfelt thank you from the Howard County Pregnancy Center for your generous response to the Baby Bottle Fundraiser which totaled \$9,608.76. Your prayers and financial support continue to be a source of encouragement for the volunteers that give of their time and talent helping women in a crisis pregnancy decide to give their children the gift of life.



FOOD DRIVE NEXT WEEKEND

Next week is our monthly food drive. Please help us help the hungry by bringing a "St. Louis Bag of Food" to church next weekend. This is what is in our bags: 1 box cereal, 1 box powdered milk, 1 box spaghetti, 1 jar spaghetti sauce, 1 jar peanut butter, 1 can green vegetable, 1 can fruit, 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 2 cans of tuna fish, 2 cans soup, 2 cans baked beans. Bring a bag or part of a bag. It all helps and goes the next day to the poor.

DONUT SALE

St. Louis School will be sponsoring a donut sale after all masses on **January 11th**. Please join us in the Social Hall for donuts, muffins, bagels, coffee, juice, fun and fellowship.

MARCH FOR LIFE

January 22, 2009 is the 36th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. The 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision denied the personhood of the unborn, making abortion legal for all nine months of pregnancy. As Catholics, we are called to embrace the teachings of the Gospel of Life and to be leaders in the renewal of American respect for the sanctity of life. Please join with fellow parishioners on **January 22nd** as we march in peaceful public witness with thousands from around our country for legal protection of the innocent, defenseless unborn. Mass will be held at St. Louis at 8:30am. We will depart from the Church parking lot promptly at 10am and return by 5:30pm. The bus is free, but the round trip Metro fare is \$2.70 (exact change, please). Call Pat Kelley 410-997-8094 or the parish office for bus reservations (required) or information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

PARENT/CHILD FIRST EUCHARIST PREPARATION MEETINGS

Our parish rejoices each year as we welcome our children into more active involvement in our community through the Sacrament of Eucharist. Regular reception of Holy Communion fosters a relationship with Jesus that is central to a child's religious development. Parent/Child meetings for those children who wish to prepare to receive First Holy Communion in May will begin in January. Families of eligible second grade students enrolled in St. Louis School, Religious Education, Trinity School or Woodmont Academy should have received a letter in the mail inviting them to attend any one of the meetings listed below. If you feel you should have received a letter in the mail and did not, or if you have any questions, please contact Vickie Yozwiak at (410) 531-6688. All preparation meetings will be held in the Howard Bishop meeting rooms.

Wednesday, January 14: 5:00 to 6:15 OR 7:00 to 8:15
Thursday, January 15: 7:00 to 8:15

FROM THE MUSIC MINISTRY

Do you like to sing? We are now searching for a few additional willing and able singers to cantor at Mass – especially Saturday evening at 4:00pm and 5:30pm. Please contact Paul Carroll at pcarroll@stlouispark.org or the Parish Office for more information.

YOUTH DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

It has been a little while since I have been to Harper's Ferry...but I still remember one particular visit like it was yesterday. I decided to hike to the top of Maryland Heights, not too tough of a climb, but I had decided to hike the cliff portion...in the rain...in bare feet (that last one was a joke, of course!) Anyway, have you ever begun something and quickly decided that it was a stupid move and may cost your life? This may have been one of those times where a goal was maybe too dangerous!

After slipping and sliding my way to the top I finally reached the pinnacle, looking more like a water logged bear than an exhilarant climber! I enjoyed the view of Harper's Ferry and the Shenandoah River (at which point hosts 3 states) and headed back down. My simple goal was to not fall and maim or kill myself on the slippery slopes. Could I have gone a longer, safer way? Sure. Am I sometimes very dumb? Yes! I took my time, but gravity has a way of speeding things up! I found myself running down the hill, grabbing whatever twig or bush to stop my descent. I will not describe to you what it looked like for a man my size to be galloping and grabbing...you can use your imagination (at the risk of nightmares!) When I finally did make it to the bottom, I literally kissed the ground and rejoiced in the Lord!

In a few days, we celebrate the start of a New Year. It is a time of reassessing things, reflecting on changes and setting goals. As you decide which goals to pursue, make sure each one will draw you closer to God and to healthy living. It is the call of the Gospel to live dangerously, to stand up and sacrifice for the holy life. It is *not* the will of God to put yourself in unhealthy risks to reach goals like I did

I'LL BE PRAYING FOR YOU AS YOU MAKE NEW YEAR'S GOALS!

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

December 29th MS & HS CYM Snow tubing at Whitetail

January 4th BRUNCH at Grassroots Homeless Shelter

January 9th MS CYM Monthly Dance. Tickets on sale starting January 5 in the Religious Education office.

January 24th "St. Paul the Movie" at Snowden Theatre. Call Pat.

January 25th Youth Mass at 9:30am

February 1st Lunches to the Homeless

ST. LOUIS SCHOOL



School Annual Appeal Underway... *Capture the Spirit!*

Our 2008-2009 Annual Appeal for St. Louis School is now underway and we are off to a great start. Through our appeal each year, we ask that you support Catholic education in our own parish and help us provide critical financial support to the operating budget of the school. Thanks to the generosity of our families and parishioners, we have already received gifts totaling over \$17,000! Follow our progress toward our goal of \$75,000 on our webpage at www.stlouisparish.org/school/development/appeal. Have a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

St. Louis Young Adult Ministry (SLYA) welcomes Catholic young adults (single, married, married with children) ages 18-35, and connects them through a balance of social, service and spiritual events. SLYA is a member of the Howard County Regional Young Adult Ministry. If you would like more information, please contact Kristen Daub (kdaub@stlouisparish.org) or Lora Atkinson (seekingtruth03@yahoo.com).

Please note:

Bible Studies have stopped for the year. They will start again on January 14th at 7:30pm in room 303!

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHRINE OF ST. ANTHONY

Recurring Events:

Daily Mass, Monday thru Friday, 12 noon
(Tuesday Mass includes the Novena to St. Anthony)
First Friday Healing Mass, 7:30pm
Third Sunday Healing Mass, 3:00pm
Confession, Wednesday, 4:00pm-5:00pm and Friday, 7:00-8:00pm
(except for First Friday of each month)
Daily Evening Prayer, Monday thru Friday, 5pm

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 31, Evening of Adoration: Preparing for the New Year, 9pm
Join us to reflect on the past year, seek reconciliation, and offer thanksgiving starting at 9pm followed by a presentation entitled "A fireside chat: from Chronos Time to the Kairos Moment!"; adoration; time for reconciliation and thanksgiving; midnight Mass and breakfast.

Jan. 3, Experiencing Holy Ground: Gathering of Young Adults; 6:30pm

A celebration for young adults (20+) in the Manor House beginning with dinner at 6:30 pm followed by Mass at 7:30 pm in the Shrine Chapel. Fellowship and dessert will be after Mass.

Unless otherwise noted, all above events are held at the Shrine of St. Anthony at 12290 Folly Quarter Rd in Ellicott City. For more info call 410-531-2800 or visit www.companionsofstanthony.org.

TRAVELERS LOOKING FOR MASS TIMES

To find church locations and Mass schedules nationwide call 1-410-676-6000 or go to www.MassTimes.org.

CONSIDERING ADOPTION?

Catholic Charities of Baltimore has both International and Domestic Adoption Programs. We work with families of all faiths and couples or singles with or without other children. Our next informational meeting will be held on **January 10th** at 11 E. Mt. Royal Ave. in Baltimore, 21202. Children visit prospective adoptive families for 4 weeks in late June to mid July so they can all assess if adoption is a good fit with each other, then return to the Philippines while families complete the adoption process if they decide to proceed. For further details or to register for these meetings, please call our office at 410-659-4050.

LITTLE SISTERS NEED VOLUNTEERS

The Little Sisters of the Poor in Catonsville are in need of adult and youth volunteers for various tasks including but not limited to outside work, kitchen help, minor carpentry project, sewing, occasional bus driver (no special class needed), visiting residents, etc. Please contact Susan Z. Smith 410-744-9367 x124 or email volbaltimore@littlesistersofthepoor.org.

ST VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY:

If you have a clothing donation, you may drop your items into the blue St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Bin located in the rear of the parking lot by the Maintenance Barn. If you need to obtain a receipt for your clothing donations, you need to call St. Vincent de Paul directly at 410-276-7600. Clothing items should be placed in sturdy plastic bags and tied securely and then placed *in the bin*, making sure that the bags are pushed up and over the inside ledge. 15-gallon trash bags fit well in the clothing bin drop slot. This is a wonderful opportunity for used clothing in good condition to be distributed to the poor. It would be regrettable should there be the need to remove the bin from the St. Louis Campus. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.