



ST. LOUIS CHURCH

December 25, 2011

NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Daily Mass Readings

Nativity of The Lord	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Isaiah 9:1-6	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59	1 John 1:1-4	1 John 1:5-2:2	1 John 2:3-11	Colossians 3:12-21	1 John 2:18-21	Numbers 6: 22-27
Psalms 96:1-3, 11-13	Psalms 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17	Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12	Psalms 124:2-5, 7-8	Psalms 96:1-3, 5-6	Psalms 128:1-5	Psalms 96:1-2, 11-13	Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Titus 2:11-14							Galatians 4: 4-7
Luke 2:1-14	Matthew 10: 17-22	John 20:1-8	Matthew 2: 13-18	Luke 2:22-35	Luke 2:22-40	John 1:1-18	Luke 2:16-21

What is 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.

Call to Prayer

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

Excerpts from SNOW FALLING ON SNOW
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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 or Spontaneous prayers or a faith-based song.

Reflection Question for Next Sunday, January 1, 2012

And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. She took in everything that was happening: all she knew and was learning about her son, and quietly let it seep into her very being. Mary gave birth to Jesus physically, so, of course, what God did in and through her was unique. But her glory is that she is Jesus’ premier disciple and allowed him to use her entire life to cooperate with his mission. That is our calling as well: to make Jesus present in the world. Are those you encounter able to “see” Jesus through you?

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

ACTS Men's Small Group	Monday, December 26, 2011	Room 305	7:00 PM
Novena	Monday, December 26, 2011	Chapel	7:30 PM
ACTS Men's Retreat Team	Tuesday, December 27, 2011	Room 301	7:00 PM
Playgroup	Wednesday, December 28, 2011	Room 301	9:30 AM
CDA Book Club	Wednesday, December 28, 2011	Room 304	7:00 PM
ACTS Women's Retreat Team	Thursday, December 29, 2011	Room 301	7:00 PM

PLEASE COME HOME! AN INVITATION: Ever wonder why church is so full at Christmas? Besides visiting family and children home from college, we are blessed each year with folks wanting to reconnect, if only for a little while. People yearning for a relationship with the Church that somehow has gotten broken over the years. But the longing is there: they find their way home at Christmas. If this sounds like someone you know, please tell them we love them, we miss them, we want to welcome them home. We would love an opportunity to mend what’s been keeping them away. Questions? Please contact Msgr. Luca, Father Greg, Deacon Fred, Deacon Scott or Marianne Faulstich, Pastoral Associate, in the parish office at 410-531-6040.



Dear Parishioners:

Merry Christmas!

Let us not forget the true meaning of this day as captured in the following verse: *For God so loved the world that He sent us His only Son; the Son so loved us that He gave His life for us.*

The ultimate message of Christmas is that God has shown His love not only for the world but for each of us as individuals. He sent us His Son to concretely show us that He is with us—hence one of the titles given the Christ Child is **Emmanuel**—which means **God with us**.

Let us rejoice in God’s love and learn to share that love with others.

I sincerely wish each and every one of you a truly Blessed Christmas.

Msgr. Luca

Msgr. Luca

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

*Reflect upon your present blessings of which all people have some.
Charles Dickens*



PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY—MAY 9-19, 2012: This year’s pilgrimage includes visits to Rome, Orvieto, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Padua and Venice. Tour cost of \$3995.00 per person (based on double occupancy) includes round-trip motor coach transportation from St. Louis to Dulles International Airport, round-trip airfare (including airline taxes/fuel surcharges as currently levied), accommodations in First Class hotels (taxes included), breakfast and dinner daily, land transportation, sightseeing with professional local guides, all entrance fees as per itinerary and of course Daily Mass celebrated by Msgr. Luca. For further information pick up a brochure at the Information Table or call George’s International Tours at 1-800-566-7499 during West Coast business hours.

VISIT THE PARISH INFORMATION TABLE IN THE NARTHEX AFTER MASS: Parishioners and visitors are able to ask questions about our parish ministries, receive information about parish events, make address and name changes and sign up for e-mail alerts at the Parish Information Table. **SAY!!! Looking for an EASY WAY to get involved at St .Louis?** Consider joining the ranks of friendly volunteers at the Information Table! You are there anyway, right? It takes just a few minutes after Mass to greet people who stop by, answer their questions if you know the answer or write it down for the Parish Staff to handle if you don’t. No pressure! Volunteers get a list of Masses each week and if they are able, fill in their name next to the Mass they will cover and “Reply All” to the e-mail so everybody knows who is serving when. Curious? Contact Marianne Faulstich, Pastoral Associate at 410-531-6040 or mfaulstich@stlouisparish.org.

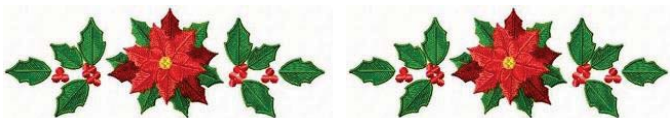
PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS: The Parish Office will be closed Sunday, December 25th and Monday, December 26th for the Christmas holiday. The Parish Office will also be closed Friday, December 30th and Sunday, January 1st for the New Year’s holiday. We will be open Saturday, December 31st and will re-open Monday, January 2nd at 9:00 am.





CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERINGS: The following offerings were made after the publication of the Christmas Flower Memorial Booklet:

Donor:	In Memory/Honor of:
Mr. Chris Ardoin	Jeff & Anne Ardoin
Baker Family	Nicholas Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blanchard	Blanchard Family
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Blanchard	Bourne Family
Mr. & Mrs. Gennaro Cibelli	Special Intention
Mr. Brian Duncan	Special Intention
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Kennedy	Hervey & Dorothy St. Cyr
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ludicke	Tim Dapp
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ludicke	Mary Leona Duvall
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ludicke	Theodore F. Duvall
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ludicke	Anna Ludicke
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Ludicke	G.A. Ludicke
Ms. Patricia Ralston	Aldo P. Brigide
Ms. Patricia Ralston	Earl & Queenie Farrall
Ms. Patricia Ralston	Adele, Frank, & Tom Ralston
Ms. Patricia Ralston	Tom & Martha Lee Ralston
Ms. Patricia Ralston	James A. Ralston, Sr.
Mrs. Jeanette Wiebking	Special Intention



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions will not be heard Saturday, December 31st.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION in the Chapel is canceled on December 24 & 25, 2011 and December 31 & January 1, 2012. Adoration will resume on January 7 & 8, 2012.

Please join us Wednesday, January 4th at 7:00 pm in the Church for Adoration with Taize music.

WORSHIP

MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 25, 2011

Sunday	9:00am	Jane Gossage and Pauline Schaller
	11:15am	Carol Seiling and Rosemary Merrill
	12:45pm	Maria Bochniewicz and Stephen B. Waters
Monday	7:00am	Jonathan Hafner and Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday	7:00am	Phyllis A. Cooke and Mary Anstead
Wednesday	7:00am	Marie & Michael Albanese
Thursday	7:00am	Steve & Mary Kemper (SI)
Friday	7:00am	Shelly Jo Sippl and James Felsecker
Saturday	8:00am	Emmanuel "Sam" Picek and Souls in Purgatory
	4:00pm	Joseph B. Graziano and Harry Byrne

(SI) denotes a Special Intention for a living person or persons.

SICK LIST: 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.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK, ESPECIALLY:

Valerie Alexander	Fred Gossage, Sr.	Br. Brian Newbigging
Ruth Anders	Anna Groff	Jan Pawtowski
Lee Ann Barbee	Barry Hedden	Dcn. Matthew Podniesinski
Gail Becker	Margaret Hoffman	Georgiana Podniesinski
Margaret Biro	Regan Keller	Rana Lilyann Rejaie
Teresa Blanchard	Elaine King	Kathryn Rosewag
Steve Bode	William Kolar	Evelyn Schroder
Nnenna Burns	Mary Lebling	Julie Treuth
James Butler	Jose Macsado	Abelardo Valencia
Melanie Ciesluk	Virginia Martinson	Margie Vamvakis
Norris Cooksey	S. McClain	Michael Wagner
Claire Day	Bart McPherson	Melody Walsh
Evelyn Ditingo	Margaret Miller	Jeff Walt
Joshua Doubet	Bill Mills	Ainsley Weschler
Abigail Garstecki	Janet Mills	Collin Weschler
Stanley Giermek		



MILITARY LIST: If you would like to have a name put on our Military List, please call the parish office at 410-531-6040. Names on the Military List will appear first initial and last name only and will remain until we receive a request to remove the name. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| P. Bacon | G. Horn | B. Reier |
| C. Bassett | D. Joyce | M. Ritter |
| D. Breville | M. Lark | J. Ryan |
| S. Cooper | C. Lozzi | J. Six |
| J. Danko | M. Mangus, Jr. | A. Stone |
| L. Draughn | K. McLin | R. Stone |
| W. Fenwick | Fr. A. Ochalek | S. Stone |
| B. Gallagher | M. O'Donnell | E. Surette |
| B. Green | A. Parrish | B. Urena |
| D. Haack | J. Parrish | C. Wolf |
| J. Helfrich | S. Parrish | Fr. T. Wood |
| J. Henry | D. Reccardi | K. Zaumseil |

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Robert Felsecker,
grandfather of Alan and Andrew Felsecker

June Sipocz,
mother of Joe Sipocz.

ALTAR SERVERS: We are privileged at St. Louis to have dedicated, reverent and happy Altar Servers. If you are in the fifth grade, you are now eligible to serve at the Altar during Mass. There will be two sessions for Altar Server training – Tuesday, January 3rd from 7:00 until 8:15pm and Saturday, January 7th from 1:00 to 2:15pm. Both training sessions will be held in the main church. All Altar Servers are invited to attend as the veteran Altar Servers can assist in showing the new ones how to serve at the Altar. There will be a period of prayer, reflection and practice. If you are in fifth grade or above and are interested in serving others as an Altar Server at Mass, I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to attend either one or both of the sessions. You won't be disappointed! – Deacon Scott Lancaster



PLANNING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM? The next Baptism Preparation Session will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in Room 301 of the Pastoral Center from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Please call the Parish Office at 410-531-6040 to register.

FELLOWSHIP

ST LOUIS ACTS RETREATS: ACTS stands for Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. St. Louis Parish has been providing women's and men's retreats for the past 4 years. The goals of an ACTS retreat are to strengthen our faith, renew ourselves spiritually and build lasting friendships. The next men's ACTS retreat will be held February 23 - February 26. For additional details please contact Wayne Strupp at 443-812-8897. The next women's ACTS retreat will be held March 29—April 1. For additional information, please contact Diane Iannarino at 410-531-8115. Registration forms are available in the narthex. Or you can register on-line: <http://www.stlouisparish.org/fellowship/actsmen.html> or <http://www.stlouisparish.org/fellowship/actswomen.html>.

SAVE THE DATE: The 134th Annual Clarksville Picnic will be Saturday, June 30. That's a mere six months from now! So, if you are already planning your vacations for next year, please keep our Picnic Day in mind.

CHURCH LINENS: Altar linens are to be picked up this week by Ms. Hoeck and next week by Ms. Justice.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Day Masses

Sunday, December 25, 2011

9:00 a.m. Mass - Church

11:15 a.m. Mass – Church (St. Louis Choir)

12:45 p.m. Mass - Church

Daily Mass

Saturday, December 31, 2011

8:00 a.m. Mass – Church

Solemnity of Mary,

Mother of God Masses

Saturday, December 31, 2011

Vigil Mass – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2012

6:45 a.m.

8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

11:15 a.m.

12:45 p.m.



EDUCATION



Thank you to all who have responded with generous donations to our school's Annual Fund. To date we have received over \$23,000 -- What a fantastic response! The Annual Fund helps us to cover our operating costs each year so that we may keep our tuition increases to a minimum. We know that you have many worthy causes to which you can donate your hard-earned dollars and we appreciate your unwavering support of our parish school. Thank you so much!

On behalf of the faculty, staff and students we wish you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas and Peace and Prosperity in the New Year!

Thank you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Saturday Morning Religious Education: Please mark your calendars with the following important dates (For more info on any event, please call 410-531-6688):

December 31: No Class/Christmas break
January 7: Religion classes, 9:00am

YOUTH MINISTRY

THE GOLD WRAPPING PAPER - An Inspiring Christmas Story (Author Unknown)

Once upon a time, a man punished his five-year-old daughter for using up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper before Christmas. Money was tight, so he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used the expensive gold paper to decorate a large shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her. But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us as human beings have been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold. **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FROM THE CYM OFFICE!**

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY:

December 27: Snow tubing at Whitetail
January 2: No Religious Education
January 6: HS CYM Open Gym, 7-10pm
January 8: BRUNCH
Lunches to the Homeless
Deeper Waters, 7-8:30pm
January 9: Religious Education Begins again
January 20: MS Monthly Dance, 7-10pm. Tickets on sale starting January 9
January 22: Youth Mass, 9:30am
BRUNCH
Deeper Waters, 7-8:30pm
January 24: MS CYM Youth Council, 6-7pm
MS Parents, 7:15pm
January 30: Parent Speaker at Religious Education, 7:15-8:15pm

ADULT ENRICHMENT

TWO EXCITING ENHANCEMENTS TO THE CATECHISM STUDY FOR 2012: The Catechism Study that has been so popular during the evening will now be offered on Thursday afternoon from 1:30pm until 3:30pm. We will start with Part I of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. In addition we plan to offer an advanced Catechism Study, presented by Fr. Joachim, on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm until 9:00pm starting the end of January. This advanced study will examine in greater depth the faith of our Church as developed in the writings and elocutions of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Please help us customize this study for your interests by suggesting particular topics or specific church documents you would be interested in learning more about. Contact Leo Regensburger by email at leoregensburger@comcast.net or cell at 410-382-9064 to schedule yourself in either of these classes or to provide input for the advanced Catechism Study.



STEWARDSHIP

SECOND COLLECTIONS

January 14/15 Special Care for Diocesan Priests
January 21/22 Building Fund
January 28/29 St. Louis School/Catholic Schools Week

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

PLANNED GIVING

As parishioners of Saint Louis Church, we are all beneficiaries of more than 150 years of service and parishioner generosity. A planned gift to Saint Louis Church, will sustain this good work for generations to come. For more information on making a planned gift to Saint Louis Church, contact Mary Helfrich, Development Director at MHelfrich@stlouisparish.org or 410-531-6040.

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!

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF REMEMBERING ST. LOUIS IN YOUR WILL? A bequest in your will, no matter what the amount, will help the church continue to care for and service God's people. Please consider remembering St. Louis.

COMMUNITY

SHRINE OF ST. ANTHONY

Recurring Events:

- Daily Mass, Sunday through Saturday, 12 noon (Tuesday Mass includes the Novena to St. Anthony)
- First Friday Healing Mass, 7:30 PM
- Third Sunday & Last Sunday Healing Mass, 12 noon
- Confession, Monday—Saturday, 11:30 AM and Wednesday, 4 PM-5 PM

New Year's Eve Adoration and Mass: December 31, 2011. The Friars of the Shrine of St. Anthony invite you to Eucharistic Adoration in the Shrine Chapel from 9:00-10:00pm. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00pm. All are welcome.

The office and gift shop will be closed on New Year's Day, Sunday January 1st, and also Monday January 2nd. We will reopen on Tuesday January 3rd.

OUTREACH

RESPECT LIFE: Mark your calendars! The March for Life is coming! Come join a few thousand of the nicest people you will ever meet at one of the most peaceful gatherings you can attend to support Life. The 2012 March for Life is scheduled for January 23rd. Bus signups will be held on January 7th and 8th. For more information, call Sue Arlinghaus at 410-531-1320.



FOOD DRIVE WEEKEND: Our monthly food drive will be held January 7/8. 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 of cereal, 1 box of powdered milk, 1 box of spaghetti, 1 jar of spaghetti sauce, 1 jar of peanut butter, 1 can of green vegetables, 1 can of fruit, 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 2 cans of tuna fish, 2 cans of soup, 2 cans of baked beans. Bring a bag or part of a bag. It all helps and goes the next day to the poor.

THE POOR NEED YOUR HELP: Once a month Saint Louis parishioners feed 700 people at Our Daily Bread. You can help by preparing chicken pieces according to a simple recipe 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 – January 9, 2012.** 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.



TRAVELERS LOOKING FOR MASS TIMES: To find church locations and Mass schedules nationwide, call 1-410-676-6000 or go to www.MassTimes.org.