



December 23, 2018
4th Sunday of Advent

For much of my life, an important part of preparing for Christmas was making it clear to myself and others...especially others...what I wanted for Christmas.

When I was a little boy, one of my standard requests was for cars and trucks. As I got older, I began asking for hockey equipment. While preparing to go to the seminary, I asked for books. As I look back, my wish list tended to reflect what was most important to me in my life at the time, something I think we can all recognize to some extent.

For the past few years, I have not really thought too much about a wish list for Christmas. Part of the reason for that is that I rarely get to spend time with my family on Christmas and when I do, I am mostly concerned about cherishing the gift of just being with them, since it has become a rare thing given their distance from me. But this year, I have been thinking about that question: What would I really like for Christmas?

As I have pondered that in prayer, I keep coming back to the desire for the people in my life, especially all of you, to come to know the love of Jesus in a new and personal way. There are times when I am preaching or celebrating Mass that I have an overwhelming sense of God's loving presence in my life and I wish that I could just take that and place it into the hearts of each person. Of course, I know that is impossible, but one can always wish, right? I have a similar experience when I personally go to confession. I have such a profound sense of peace after having received God's loving mercy that I cannot help but want the same for those whom I love. Can you fault me for that?

I have said this before - and let me say it here again - I mention these things not with the motivation of trying to guilt anybody into going to Mass or Confession. I say it out of my love for all of you and my desire for you to experience some of what the Lord has blessed me with through these two great sacraments which are at the heart of my having that personal relationship with Jesus.

So, as I celebrate the Christmas masses this year, know that all of you will be on my mind and in my heart in a special way. What I want most for Christmas is for all of us to open our hearts a little more to the love Christ has for us and to let that love guard us and protect us as we continue to journey together as a parish family, growing as intentional disciples of the Lord who seek, above all else, to share in the gift that He came to bring us through His Incarnation - eternal life in Heaven!

- *Father Alford*

Anointing of the Sick

If you are going to the hospital for surgery or have a serious illness, receive the Sacrament of the Sick. Please call the parish office to receive the Sacrament, administered privately or during daily Mass. Call Barb Scoggins at 217-498-9197 to have a family member placed on the prayer list.

Prayer List:



- Rene Runions**, parishioner
- Ray Roland**, parishioner
- Lynn F. Leach**, parishioner
- Kathy Smith**, parishioner
- Evelyn Conboy**, parishioner
- Mary Kates**, parishioner
- JoAnn Camille**, parishioner
- Betty & Ray Rowden**, parishioners
- Trish Leach**, parishioner
- JoAnn Barber**, parishioner
- Frank Roessler**, brother of Kay Foster
- Donna Meyers**, mother of Kellie Brewer
- Julie Sinkus**, daughter of Barb Sinkus
- Tom Helling**, brother of Gary Helling
- Jim Felts**, husband of Dianne Felts
- Tim Dunbar**, nephew of Ginger Rentschler
- Jerry McCormick**, brother of Tom Walker
- Jean Seward**, sister of Mary Jo Duesterhaus
- Tommy Martin**, nephew of Debbie Decker
- Margie Lammert**, mother of Sarah Clare
- Steven Butts**, brother of Michelle Bullock
- Reba Cloyd**, mother of Anita Schwab
- Jennifer Harbeck**, cousin of Brad Zack
- Joanna Laabs**, wife of Deacon Al Laabs
- John Vercautern**, cousin of Laurie White
- Logan Flotkoetter**, friend of Mary Bruno
- Cherie Peterson**, niece of Peggy Parnell

SCRIPTURE READINGS DEC. 23rd – DEC. 30th

Sunday:	MI 5:1-4A	HEB 10:5-10 LK 1:39-45
Monday:	IS 9:1-6	TI 2:11-14 LK 2:1-14
Tuesday:	IS 52:7-10	HEB 1:1-6 JN 1:1-18
Wednesday:	ACTS 6:8-10;	7:54-59 MT 10:17-22
Thursday:	1JN 1:1-4	JN 20:1A, 2-8
Friday:	1JN 1:5-2:2	MT 2:13-18
Saturday:	1JN 2:3-11	LK 2:22-35
Sunday:	SIR 3:2-6, 12-14	COL 3:12-17 LK 2:41-52

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK!!

The † symbolizes the Mass is for someone who is deceased.

Saturday, December 22nd
9-10:30 a Confessions
3:30 p Confessions
4:30 p Mass(Int: Christopher Weier†)

Sunday, December 23rd
7:30 a Confessions
8:00 a Mass (Int: for the Parish)
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Nelson
9:45 a Confessions
10:00 a Rosary
10:00 a Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a Mass (Int: John Blasko†)
12:00 p RCIA
12:15 a Rayhill Baptism
4:00-5:30 p Confessions

Monday, December 24th
9-10:30 a Confessions
4:30 p Mass (Int: For the Parish)
10:00 p Mass (Int: All Souls†)
Tuesday, December 25th
9:00 a Mass (Int: For the Parish)
Wednesday, December 26th
7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a Mass (Int: Limper/Engeling Families)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary
9:00 a Counting Team #4
6:30 p NO PSR OR CHOIR
Thursday, December 27th
7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a Mass (Int: All Souls†)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary
Friday, December 28th
7:00 a Morning Prayer
7:30 a Mass (Int: Leonard Howard†)
8:00 a Scriptural Rosary

Saturday, December 29th
3:30 p Confessions
4:30 p Mass(Int: Evelyn Goin†)

Sunday, December 30th
7:30 a Confessions
8:00 a Mass (Int: Joyce Hogan†)
9:30 a Wyndcrest: Calverts
9:45 a Confessions
10:00 a Rosary
10:00 a Choir Rehearsal
10:30 a Mass (Int: for the Parish)

Parish Sacrificial Giving Fiscal Year 7/1/18-6/30/19

	Last Week	Year-to-date
Collection (88)	\$ 4,774.25	\$133,883.47
Electronic Funds (24)	\$ 2,898.10	\$ 25,898.40
Bldg. Dev. Fund (2)	\$ 86.00	\$ 5,527.00
EFT – Dev. Fund (10)	\$ 398.00	\$ 3,513.00
Poor Fund	\$ 29.00	\$ 1,183.49
Children's Stewardship (0)	\$ 0.00	\$ 5.00
Christmas Flowers (3)	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,024.00
Childrens Home (8)	\$ 107.00	\$ 142.00
Christmas Offering (1)	\$ 15.00	\$ 325.00
Retired Religious (11)	\$ 272.00	\$ 1,989.00
Immac. Conception (3)	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,466.00
Solemnity of Mary (1)	\$ 10.00	\$ 35.00
Number of collection envelopes used:		103
Number of electronic contributions:		48

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

Saturday, December 29th – 4:30 p.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Scheufele, Tomashavich,
Deacon Tom
Lectors: S & I Long
Servers: Rollins, Torres
Hospitality: J & D Kratz, J & S Thull

Sunday, December 30th – 8:00 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, J & N Calvert. Rayhill
Lectors: Deimel, Helling
Servers: Lauwerens, McClintock, Zeidler
Hospitality: McClintock Family, Parnell, Dowding

Sunday, December 30th – 10:30 a.m.

Euch. Min.: Fr. Alford, Crusen, Kerley, Kuntzman
Lectors: Schudel, Warren
Servers: Ryan, T & E Schudel
Minister of Care: J & N Calvert
Hospitality: Decker Family
CLOW:

Volunteer for this week – Dec. 24-Dec. 30

Church Duster: Dianne Felts
Dec. Recycling Volunteer: Jeannette Waters
Dec. Food Volunteer: David Waters Family
Coffee & Donuts – Sun., Dec. 30th:
 Don & Roberta Vanover

St. Jude Parish Weekly Confession Times

Monday – 5:00-5:20 p.m.
 Saturday – 3:30 – 4:15 p.m.
 Sunday – 7:30 a.m.- 7:50 a.m.
 Sunday – 9:45 a.m.- 10:15 a.m.



The St. Jude Adult Choir will be singing at the **4:30 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass on Tuesday, December 24th**. The choral prelude will begin at **4:00 p.m.**

Upcoming Parish Meetings/Events

- Jan. 2 – **NO PSR**
- Jan. 3, 17 – 7:00 p.m. Men’s Prayer Group
- Jan. 7 – 6:30 p.m. Mission trip meeting
- Jan. 7 – 7:00 p.m. Pastoral Council meeting
- Jan. 8, 22 – 10:00 a.m. Women’s Bible Study
- Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 – 6:30 p.m. PSR
- Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 – 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Jan. 14 – 7:00 p.m. Finance council meeting
- Jan. 15 – 6:45 p.m. Women’s Bible Study
- Jan. 15 – 7:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus meeting

The Parish Office will be closed Dec. 24 – Jan. 1.



Prepare the manger of your hearts to welcome Christ this Christmas by making a good confession. Jesus wants us to give our sins to Him so that we can be free to experience His coming in the most fruitful way possible. Here are the additional times confessions will be heard:

- Sunday, Dec. 23 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 24 – 9:00 10:30 a.m.

Would you like to help decorate St. Jude Church for Christmas?

The decorating committee will be gathering in the Church at 1:00 p.m. on December 23rd to prepare for Christmas. Please come and join in, all are welcome.

→PSR NEWS←

During December, the PSR classes will be collecting Chili to benefit the Food Pantry. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

PLEASE NOTE: For 2018 Financial Contributions to the parish, envelopes must be turned in by **12:00 noon on Monday, December 31, 2018.**

**SUBWAY – eat fresh
Rt. 29, Rochester
217-498-9475**

Catholic Children’s Home Collection

For the past 139 years, the Catholic Children’s Home in Alton has served as a ‘beacon of hope’ for thousands of children who have needed the love and compassion of God’s mercy in their lives. Today, the Catholic Children’s Home continues this mission by meeting the emotional, social, academic and basic needs of all the children sent for care and professional services, including a new program designed to serve the needs of children faced with the struggles of Autism. **Please help to continue the good work with your contribution to this special collection held at Christmas.** Thank you.

Mission Trip 2019 Meeting

The next mission trip meeting will be **Monday, January 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.** in the St. Jude Parish Center. Please plan to be there as we will be completing forms for CHWC camp registration, distributing order forms and sign-up schedules for the upcoming take & bake lasagna sales. This is a great fundraiser for the trip!

Adult Formation at the Cathedral

The Gospel According to St. Luke

The beginning of a new liturgical year brings a new cycle of readings with this year’s focus on the Gospel of St. Luke. Join Fr. Friedel in exploring this Gospel’s teachings, Structure and themes. **Thursdays – January 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st**

Carols at Noon Mark Gifford, Cathedral Organist plays an hour of Christmas Carols on the Cathedral Pipe Organ. Free and family friendly. Do you have out of town guests? Now you have something to do the day after Christmas! **Cathedral, Wednesday, December 26, Noon**



The staff joins me in extending prayerful blessings of Christmas joy, peace and love to each of you. You are being remembered in prayers especially at Mass throughout the Christmas Season.

Want to give your spouse a gift that says you truly love them and want to make the most of your marriage? Give your spouse a gift certificate for a Marriage Encounter weekend as a Christmas present! **You will BOTH appreciate this special gift to one another.** If that sounds good to you, just pick up the phone to find out more about a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend on Jan. 19-20, 2019 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceville, IL (no hotel provided); or Feb. 8-10, 2019 at the Courtyard Marriott in St. Peters, MO. If you would like to apply or get more information, go to <https://stl-wwme.org/schedule.php> or call 1-314-649-7317.

SHG PLACEMENT TEST- The SHG Placement Test will be offered on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. Becky Jones, Tuition Manager, and Sr. Katherine O'Connor, President, will be available to answer parents' questions at 8:30 a.m. in the Choral Room. Please contact our Registrar at 217-787-1595 ext. 126 if you are unable to take the test. Students will need to bring #2 Pencils and \$10 testing fee. No calculators will be allowed. Pre-registration online is required by Friday January 11. Use the following link to register:

<http://bit.ly/SHGPlacementTest2019>

FORMED PICK

The Story of the Nativity

Explore the Birth of Christ

This fast-paced look at the true story of the Nativity clears away misunderstandings about Jesus's origin and is invaluable for learning more about the truth of Christmas.



"I LOVE the biblical referencing tying the Old and New Testaments together...it shows the fullness and perfection of God's plan unfolding!"

—Sandy S., Eustis, FL

<https://stjuderochester.formed.org>



Watch on formed.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL POSITIONS

Each year three to four persons are selected to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council for a three-year term. The qualifications are: an actively participating and registered member of St. Jude Church and a willingness to commit to monthly meetings generally on the first Monday of each month. The Pastoral Council offers counsel and/or recommendations to the Pastor regarding the pastoral activity of the parish.

If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone to serve on the Pastoral Council, please use the form below, contact Mark Schudel, chairman, or the parish office by Friday, January 4, 2019. The First meeting of the new Council will be February 11, 2019.

Recommendation for Pastoral Council

I would like to be considered to serve a three year term on the St. Jude Pastoral Council.

Name: _____

I would like to nominate the following person to serve on the St. Jude Pastoral Council:

Name: _____

“Christmas Bells”

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old, familiar carols play,
 And wild and sweet
 The words repeat
 Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!



—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow