

Parish Office

HoursMon.-Fri. 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Phone(812) 934-3204
Fax(812) 933-0667
Residence Phone(812) 933-0708

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Stanley Pondox 265
fr.stanleypondo@yahoo.com
Associate Pastor, Fr. Suresh Gantax 266
frsuresh@st.louisschool.org
Deacon, Ronald Freyer(812) 593-0623
deaconron@st.louisschool.org
Business Manager, Scott Weekleyx 221
sweekley@st.louisschool.org
Business Office, Tina Weberx 280
tweber@st.louisschool.org
Director of Religious Education,
Amy Tongesx 249
religioused@st.louisschool.org
Youth Coordinator, Carrie Wesselerx 223
cwesseler@st.louisschool.org
Director of Music & Liturgy,
Mike Fritsch(812) 212-1164
Susan Kohrman(812) 212-2863
music@st.louisschool.org

Parish Secretary

Michelle Wachsmannx 251
mwachsmann@st.louisschool.org
Brenda Mollx 277
bmoll@st.louisschool.org

Maintenance

Wade Ryle934-3310, x 271
wryle@st.louisschool.org
Brian Lamping(812) 934-3204
blamping@st.louisschool.org

School Office

Phone(812) 934-3310
Fax(812) 934-6202
Principal, Patty Mauerx 239
pmauer@st.louisschool.org
School Secretary, Joan Riedemanx 235
jriedeman@st.louisschool.org
School Secretary, Tricia Gehlx 236
tgehl@st.louisschool.org
School Nurse, Lydia Gardnerx 283

Parish Council

Chairperson, Jeremy Cook
V. Chairperson, Richard Hartwell
Secretary, Angie Moster

School Commission

Chairperson, Dustin Walke
P.T.O.pto@st.louisschool.org

Faith Formation

Chairperson, Amy Tonges934-3204
R.C.I.A., Darlene Hirt934-2603

Finance Committee

Chairperson, Brenda Ratcliffe932-1449

Parish Life Committee

Chairperson,934-3204
Respect Life,934-3204

Bereavement Luncheon Committee

Bonnie Hertel212-1117
Carmie Meyer934-4922

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Anne Meer(812) 212-8155

The Epiphany of the Lord • JANUARY 5, 2025

ST. LOUIS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

13 ST. LOUIS PLACE • BATESVILLE, IN 47006

www.stlouis-batesville.org



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star.
- Mt 2:10

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©JPI

Welcome to St. Louis Parish!

Prayer & Devotion

Rosary & Holy Hour: First Friday of the month at 6:00pm

Prayer Service: Saturday at 8:05am in the Adoration Chapel
Monday after 8:10am Mass in the West Transept

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 5:30pm
Sunday 6:30, 9:30 & 11:00am

Weekday:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:10am; Tuesday 6:00pm
Saturday 9:00am

Reconciliation (Confession):

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday after the 8:10am Mass;
Tuesday at 5:00pm; Saturday at 4:30pm

Sacraments

Baptism: A Baptism preparation class is required before the baptism of your first child. Baptisms are held on the second and fourth Sunday by appointment. Call the parish office to schedule.

Marriage: Couples desiring to be married at St. Louis should be registered, active members of the parish. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment with the priest at least six months before the anticipated date.

Anointing of the Sick: This sacrament is for anyone with a serious illness, undergoing surgery, etc., or near death. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick please call the parish office.

St. Louis Church Painting Update

Our painting project will start on **January 6, 2025**. Stephenson and Co. will begin erecting scaffolding immediately following Mass that day. As a reminder, this phase includes drywalling and painting the ceiling, painting the nave and transept walls and ceilings, replacing ceiling fans and light fixtures, painting the sanctuary and replacing the sanctuary flooring with marble flooring. The project timeline for this phase is expected to take 10-12 weeks to complete.



During this time, Masses on Saturday, Sunday and Monday will remain unchanged. Daily Masses on Tuesday at 6:00pm, and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:10am, will be held at St. Anthony Church, Morris.

Thank you to the individuals and foundations that have generously donated to our project. Questions regarding the project should be directed to Scott Weekley in the parish office.

2024 Year End Statements

Contributions to St. Louis that you want included on your 2024 End of the Year Contribution Statement must be either received in the parish office or postmarked by December 31st. Checks dated in 2024 and received or postmarked after December 31st will be included on your 2025 Statement.

Epiphany House Blessing

It is a tradition to bless the home on The Feast of the Epiphany. One way is to use chalk to write on the door, **20 + C + M + B + 25**. The letters are the initials of the names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Fr. Stan, Fr. Suresh, and Deacon Ron are also available to do house blessings. If you would like to schedule a house blessing, please call the parish office.

A poster for a winter rummage sale. The background is white with snowflake patterns. On the left is a stylized blue Christmas tree. On the right is a cartoon snowman wearing a Santa hat and holding a snowball. The text is centered and includes the team name, the event name in a large script font, the location, and the sale dates with times. The text is in black and red.

Baptisms

The newest members of the St. Louis Parish Family are: **Magdalene Mae Manlove**, daughter of Jason and Jessica (Strassell) Manlove; **Charles James Minks**, son of Britt and Audrey (Niverson) Minks; and **Marlee Ann Taylor Nunlist**, daughter of Shane and Kaitlyn (Kessens) Nunlist. Congratulations!

Adoration Chapel

The following hours are in need of a scheduled adorer: **Tuesday - 4:00pm;** **Thursday - 1:00am; Friday - 12:00am, 1:00am, 2:00am; Saturday - 1:00am, 2:00pm.** If you would like to sign up for an hour in our chapel please call Anne at 812-212-8155.

Baptism Preparation Class

The Baptism preparation class is for parents who are having their first child Baptized. The next class will be offered on **Tuesday, January 21st at 7:00pm** in the Parish Office. Please call the parish office to register 812-934-3204.

Natural Family Planning

A Natural Family Planning class is held the first Sunday of the month, from **9:00am to 12:00 Noon** at St. Louis, Batesville. The next class will be held **Sunday, February 2nd**. There is a \$40.00 fee for books and materials. For reservations call or text Aly 812-212-4951 or Michael 812-212-2719

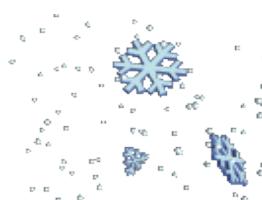
2025 Calendars

2025 calendars are at the exits in church. Thank you to Weigel Funeral Home for providing the calendars.

St. Louis Cash Raffle

Thank you for your support of our cash raffle! Congratulations:

Dec. 16th - \$1,000 - Amanda Schirmer
Dec. 19th - \$250 - Hilary Nobbe
Dec. 23rd - \$500 - Jenny Koors



Parish Calendar

3

Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 4

5:30 pm Agapito, Fernanda and Ireno Beyoneto

Sunday, January 5

6:30 am For the Parish Community
9:30 am Gene & Viola Fullenkamp
11:00 am Herbert Sun

Monday, January 6, St. André Bessette

8:10 am Sally Walke Wilhelm

Tuesday, January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort

6:00 pm Elmer, Helen and Ron Koch

Wednesday, January 8

8:10 am Walter, Gertie and Patrick Shane

Thursday, January 9

8:10 am Living and Deceased Members of the John & Rose Bedel Family

Friday, January 10

8:10 am Thomas C. Werner

Saturday, January 11

9:00 am Dorothy M. Walsman
5:30 pm Alvin Wuestefeld

Sunday, January 12, Baptism of the Lord

6:30 am Melvin & Millie Cutter
9:30 am For the Parish Community
11:00 am Frank Thompson



Readings for the Week

Sunday:	Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12
Monday:	1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3- 4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday:	Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b- 2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29- 30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/ Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Altar Servers

Monday, January 6

8:10 am SCHOOL SERVERS

Tuesday, January 7

6:00 pm Carson & Grant Hartwell

Wednesday, January 8

8:10 am SCHOOL SERVERS

Thursday, January 9

8:10 am SCHOOL SERVERS

Friday, January 10

8:10 am SCHOOL SERVERS

Saturday, January 11

5:30 pm Hunter Young & Cooper
Ulmer

Sunday, January 12

6:30 am Chase & Carson Nobbe

9:30 am Damien, Lucy & Simon
Brelage

11:00 am Lydia Dwyer & Samuel
Rodriguez

Lectors

Saturday, January 11

5:30 pm Ken Wanstrath

Sunday, January 12

6:30 am Jerry Dickman

9:30 am Owen Ramsey

11:00 am Wende Lambert

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Saturday, January 11

5:30 pm Dave Meyer, Susan
Vergamini, Rheadawn
Young, Nick Batta

Sunday, January 12

6:30 am Bill & Pat Meer, Ken Rudolf,
Nancy Meer

9:30 am Tom & Cathy Sullivan, Jon
Spreckelson, Steve Stier,
Felicity Brelage

11:00 am Mark Masavage, Ken
Bohman, Lisa Mattucci,
Rich Hartwell

**Rosary & Holy Hour
Friday, February 7th
6:00pm**

Ushers

Saturday, January 11

5:30 pm Gary Kuntz, Scot Harmeyer,
Ted Merkel, Bob Prickel,
Landen Grossman

Sunday, January 12

6:30 am Steve Eckstein, Dennis
Koch, Todd Tekulve
9:30 am John Vogelsang, Mike
Weigel, Ed Dierckman, Dale
Thomas
11:00 am Bob Mattucci, Tom
Brunsman, Ted Telles

Celebrant

Saturday, January 11

5:30 pm Fr. Stan

Sunday, January 12

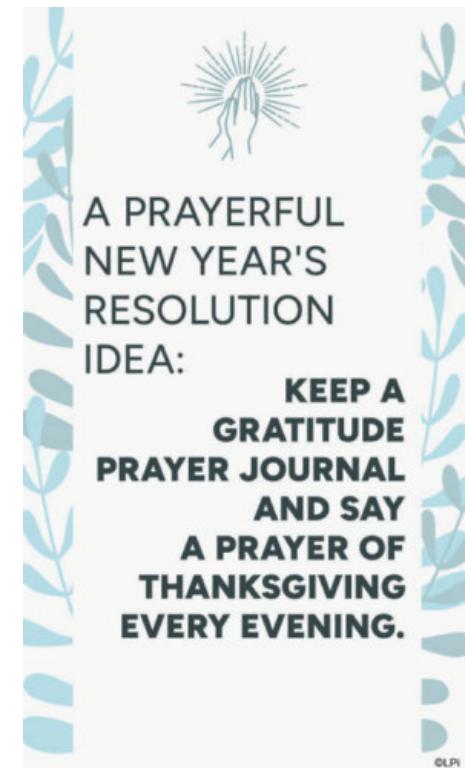
6:30 am Fr. Suresh

9:30 am Fr. Stan

11:00 am Fr. Stan

January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

For the Right to an Education - Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.






ROBERT H. ROLF, M.D.
Sports Medicine • Shoulder Surgery
Board Certified Orthopaedic Surgery
rrolf@beaconortho.com
ph 513.354.7600 or 3700 • fx 513.354.7601



**GIESTING
FINANCIAL**
Colt Ryan
Drew Moenter
(812) 933-1791
4 E Boehringer St
Batesville, IN 47006



Jon Geers, MD
General Surgery
812.934.9191

Batesville
CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP

1320 State Rd. 46 E.
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-4300 • 800-923-0090

**WALLPE LENNOX**
HEATING & COOLING INC.
8422 E. State Rd. 46 • Greensburg, IN 47240
812-663-7252



INTERNET • DATA • VOICE • VIDEO • MORE
888.343.8014



Daffodilly's
Flowers & Gifts
812-932-1284
www.daffodillysflowers.com
1 E George St. • Batesville, IN 47006



**AGRESTA, STORMS
& O'LEARY - PC**
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
www.asocpa.com

**NOEL G. GARCIA,
D.D.S., PC**
Family Dentistry
295 Winding Way
Batesville
933-0188
batesvillefamilydentist.com
New Patients Welcome

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
MED MIZER®
www.Med-Mizer.com




IAKER
ELECTRIC & PLUMBING, INC.
283 St. Rd. 129 S., Batesville, IN 47006
PC89200103
(812) 934-3351 Fax: (812) 934-2547
Gary • Darrell • Dale


Checking | Savings | Loans | CDs & IRAs | Trusts
FCN BANK
Building Stronger Communities.
fcnbank.com | 800-575-3262




Batesville Dental
Bradley P. Broughton, DDS
Cynthia A. Ledermeier, DDS
Terrence B. Roberts, DDS

IF YOU LIVE ALONE
MDMedAlert!™ As Low As
✓ Ambulance/Police
✓ Family/Friends
✓ GPS & Fall Alert
CALL NOW! 800.808.9294


964 E St. Rd 46
Greensburg
IN 47240
Work
812-663-2478
(800) 434-8937

OAKLEY MONUMENTS

David & Kelly Oakley and
Philip & Sandy Brown - Owners



Saint Maurice
FEED AND SUPPLY
Locally owned and operated
812-663-4343

**New
Patients
Welcome**
391 Northside Drive
(812) 934-3651


**SOUTHEASTERN
INSURANCE**
Committed to providing
the best coverage and service.
4 Village Rd, Batesville, IN 47006
(812) 934-3209
wendy@southeastern-ins.com


Serving you since 1932
Dave Gutzwiller
Owner • Parisbioner
Cell: 513-200-3908
Toll Free: 877-721-4366
dgutzwiller@peterpauloffice.com

SCHMIDT'S BAKERY
Wedding & Party Cakes
Danish, Donuts, Bread & Pastries
Clem & Bertie Schmidt
Owners
www.schmidtbakery.com
(812) 934-4501
125 Village Sq., Batesville, IN 47006


H&R BLOCK®
4 Village Rd.
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-4626
wendy.meyer@hrblock.com

WE'RE HIRING!
AD SALES EXECUTIVES
BE YOURSELF.
BRING YOUR PASSION.
WORK WITH PURPOSE.
• Paid training • Some travel
• Work-life balance
• Full-Time with benefits
• Serve your community



Contact us at
careers@4lpi.com or
www.4lpi.com/careers

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Maggie Dynes

mdynes@4lpi.com
(800) 477-4574 x6102



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Louis, Batesville, IN

B 4C 01-0750

KOCH AUTO & TRUCK REPAIR, INC.
Jason & Kirsten Koch
Owners
286 Central Ave., Batesville
934-5066

ROMWEBER
PARTY PLACE
Southeastern Indiana's
Premier Wedding Venue
info@romwebermarketplace.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS
VOEGELE AUTO SUPPLY, INC.
10 N. Park Ave., Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-3615
STORE HOURS
Mon.-Fri. 7am-6 pm • Sat. 7am-4pm
Sun. 10am-4pm

SEWING-n-DESIGN

Diane Gehring

Call for appointment
812-934-5241

Alterations
Tailor Made to Fit
Wedding Attire, Special Occasions
Christening, First Communion
St Louis School Uniforms
Jumpers and Skirts
Miscellaneous Sewing Needs



E-mail: sewing_n_design@yahoo.com

— 1311 Tekulve Road, Batesville, IN 47006 —

MAGNA-DRY
812-932-0054
CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING



Jeremiah M. Blossom
812-212-7715
jeremiah.blossom@kofc.org
www.kofcinsurancein.com
No purchase necessary
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Faith guides your life,
why not your financial
decisions?

For over 140 years, the Knights of Columbus has been committed to helping families plan their financial future and achieve economic security, a tradition carried on today through its insurance products.

Book a complimentary financial
needs analysis today.



Caring First
Home Health LLC

INDEPENDENT LIVING • SAFE ENVIRONMENT • HEALTHIER PEOPLE
SKILLED NURSING • PHYSICAL & OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
HOME HEALTH AIDE • RESPIRE CARE • ATTENDANT

For more information, Call us today at
(812) 576-2600
www.caringfirsthh.com



H&E
HIRT & ELLCO, INC.
ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • HEATING & COOLING

Scott Lamping
108 W. Pearl Street
Batesville, IN 47006
812.934.4646
800.256.8199
Fax 812.934.4138
slamping@etczone.com

Earning Your Trust Since 1954
ENNEKING AUTO BODY
www.EnnekingAutoBody.com
Batesville 934-3358 • Greensburg 663-3015

SCS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, INC. 513-929-0260
Commercial, Industrial, & Maintenance Construction
Framing, Drywall, Finishing, Interior Exterior Doors, Frames,
& Hardware, and Interior & Exterior Glass & Glazing



Cathy Schwering
Loan Originator/Security Officer

Cell
812-593-5570
Office
812-663-6793 ext 1289
cschwing@ffsg.net

H&R BLOCK
4 Village Rd.
Batesville, IN 47006
812-934-4626
wendy.meyer@hrblock.com

BATESVILLE LIQUOR CO.
2130 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45214
www.scsincincinnati.com
www.GreensburgIndianaMortgage.com

VOLDICO INSURANCE
TEKULVE-VANKIRK AGENCY
Shannon Tekulve
Owner/Agent
P 812.934.4447
stekulve@voldico.com
tekulvevankirk.com

Sheila Kennedy
Home Starts Here
BROKER
D: (513) 378-3927
O: (513) 922-9400
sheila.kennedy@cbws.com
Licensed in IN & OH



Are you getting the most from your Coverage?

health markets. (812) 932-2135
Josh Hountz Alex Meer
HEALTH • MEDICARE • LIFE

OHIO VALLEY BUILDERS
Bobby Rauen
513-328-0474
ohiovalleybuilders@gmail.com
Construction & Remodel

CHAFFEE TURF SERVICE, INC.
FOR ALL YOUR LAWN CARE NEEDS
KYLE CHAFFEE
• Mowing • Pruning • Core Aeration • Overseeding
• Fertilizer • Weed Control • Snow Removal
Complete Lawn Maintenance
812-934-6294
FREE ESTIMATES

Vinyl Solutions Unlimited
www.WHYNOTVINYL.com
812-663-2754
1400 W. Main
Greensburg, IN
COLUMNS • RAILING • DECKING • FENCING



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4pi.com

St. Louis, Batesville, IN

A 4C 01-0750

News & Notes

In Need of Prayers?

In the vestibule of church is a Prayer Request Notebook where anyone, at any time, can write prayer concerns. Prayer requests can also be submitted online:

1. Go to www.stlouis-batesville.org
2. Under "Quick Links" Click on "Prayer Line"
3. Enter your prayer request
4. Click on "Submit"

Ministry of Prayer and Praise Intentions for January

- For the Holy Father and all priests, that the Lord will make them zealous and uncompromising preachers and teachers of the truth.
- That the prayers offered for Vocations will result in an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, and that young men and women may always seek and discern God's will.
- That all those who are suffering distress after the holidays and during the winter months may not despair but rather may turn to Jesus for healing, courage, and perseverance.
- For Catholic schools as we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, that they may continue to form our children in the fullness of Christ's truth and respond to the challenge of secularism with a clear presentation of Catholic doctrine and moral values.
- For blessings on all those participating in the March for Life, that those who witness to the light of Christ will convert those who walk in the darkness of the culture of death.

FAMILY DAY FOR VOCATIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025
9:00AM - 12:00PM

ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS: CATHOLIC CENTER



Join us for a day of prayer, learning, and FUN!
Here's what you can expect:

- EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & MASS
- CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES
- MEET SEMINARIANS, PRIESTS, & RELIGIOUS

SCHEDULE:

9:00AM - 11:00AM: FAMILY VOCATION STATIONS
11:00AM: FAMILY MASS
12:00PM: SPECIAL LUNCH FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

REGISTRATION

FAMILY DAY: HEARGODSCALL.COM/FAMILY-DAY-FOR-VOCATIONS

HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH: HEARGODSCALL.COM/HIGH-SCHOOL-LUNCH



What's Happening

January 21

- **Sacrament Series**—St. Louis Church, **6:45pm**. Fr. Stan will talk about Confirmation.

February 18

- **Sacrament Series**—St. Louis Church, **6:45pm**. Fr. Stan will talk about Marriage & Holy Orders.

March 8

- **Marriage Presentation**—St. Louis Church, **7:00pm**. By Jack Beers.

March 25

- **Sacrament Series**—St. Louis Church, **6:45pm**. Fr. Stan will talk about Baptism & Anointing of the Sick.



10TH ANNUAL
E6 CATHOLIC
MEN'S CONFERENCE

CHRIS STEFANICK • KEYNOTE SPEAKER

22 FEBRUARY 8:00AM TO 3:30PM
Saturday 2025 EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



8:00AM TO 3:30PM
EAST CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

QR code for registration.

Bobby Angel Craig Pohl Jake Khymer Fr. Jonathan Meyer



Put on the Armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. —Ephesians 6:11

WWW.E6CATHOLICMENSCONFERENCE.COM

35 minutes NW of Cincy / 60 minutes SE of Indy / 1 Trojan Place, St. Leon, IN 47022

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2025

St. Louis Church

Batesville, IN

One Minute Meditations

St. André Bessette

Born in Montreal, Canada, St. Alfred Bessette was orphaned at the age of twelve. He was mentored by Fr. André Provençal, who inspired him to join religious life. He joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five, becoming "Brother André," and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed with oil from a lamp lit before St. Joseph. With help and donations, he built an oratory to St. Joseph.

Holy simplicity

Holy simplicity, or "spiritual childhood," starts with being who you are and not trying to be who you're not — even in prayer. When we're open-hearted with God, His grace can change our hearts. We grow in humility, trust, and love — the roots of "tough" virtues like courage, perseverance, and faithfulness.

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven"
(Matthew 5:44-45).



7 resolutions to transform your New Year

The New Year is a chance to come closer to becoming the person you are meant to be. As you embrace the new beginning, consider these seven resolutions to allow God's love to transform your life.

1. **Trust Him:** Trust in God is the foundation of a peaceful soul. Start each day praying, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I surrender myself to You; Take care of everything," and He will.

2. **Embrace authentic humility:** A humble heart chooses others first. Ask, "How can I best love this person?" and let your actions reflect that answer.

3. **Partner with your guardian angel:** Your guardian angel is always with you, offering guidance and protection (Matthew 18:10). Call

upon your angel daily for heavenly help.

4. **Practice self-discipline:** Small sacrifices can lead to profound transformation. Skip cream in your coffee, offer someone full attention, cut back on screen time.

5. **Seek out silence:** God often speaks in silence. Find silence in your day to rest in God's presence, and let Him renew your spirit.

6. **Deepen your knowledge of our Faith:** Faith blossoms with understanding. Look through the Catechism until something interests you, and dive deeper.

7. **Offer God your free time:** If you have an hour to yourself, spend five minutes in prayer. No time spent with Love, Himself, is ever wasted.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics have two versions of the Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is the summary of the beliefs of the early Church. The Nicene Creed is an expanded form of the Apostles' Creed and comes from two great Church councils (Nicaea, 325 and Constantinople, 381). Intended to combat Arianism, the Nicene

Creed emphasizes Jesus' divinity and divine Sonship (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #465). As a communal profession of faith, the Nicene Creed affirms the core beliefs of the Church and unites the congregation in a shared declaration of truth.

A proven way to grow in friendship with God

Do you long to feel God's love more deeply but find something holding you back? St. Ignatius of Loyola shared this struggle, inspiring him to create a transformative daily practice. This practice can help you live with greater joy in your journey with Christ:

1. **Give thanks:** Reflect on the blessings of your day. Pause to savor them and offer heartfelt gratitude.
2. **Seek clarity:** Ask God for the grace to recognize your sins and remove them from your heart.
3. **Examine your day:** Review your actions from

waking until now. Reflect on how sin crept in, the virtues you may need to cultivate, and areas of your life that need God's healing touch.

4. **Ask for mercy:** Come to God in repentance. His mercy welcomes you back, and Scripture assures us that Heaven rejoices over every contrite heart (Luke 15:7).

5. **Resolve to grow:** Commit to loving God and others more fully tomorrow. Plan how to resist temptation, make an effort to amend relationships, or prepare for Confession if needed.

from Scripture

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21; Not the Messiah they expected ...

In this passage, Jesus returned home to Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. He read the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah, who would *"bring glad tidings to the poor."* Then He said, *"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."* He confirmed that He was the long-awaited Messiah.

His hearers must have been shocked: they expected the Messiah to be a worldly king from an important city, not a carpenter-turned-preacher from a small town like Nazareth. They expected this Messiah-king to defeat the

oppressive Romans and make Israel a powerful nation. Instead, Jesus conquered the even greater enemies of sin and death by His Death and Resurrection.

Throughout the Bible, God chose unlikely heroes to carry out His plans: think of Abraham, Moses, David, St. Peter, St. Paul, and many others. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth as a newborn infant and lived in humility, poverty, and service. The Good News is that God's love is stronger than sin and death. If He rose to glory, those who follow Him faithfully will, too.

Q
&
A

Does fervent prayer change God's mind?

Prayer doesn't change God's mind, as if He had to be persuaded to love us. God is a good Father, and He is our Father who knows how to give good gifts (Matthew 7:9-11). Yet, prayer is still powerful and worthwhile for other reasons:

Prayer changes us: God rewards persistent, faith-filled prayer: "Lord, I entrust this to you. Thy Will be done." When we persevere in prayer, grace goes to work in our souls: our desires are purified, ordered, and sometimes even deepened. Our hearts are gradually brought into line with God's, and we begin to see, choose, and love like He does.

Prayer is relationship: A read through Scripture shows God seems to enjoy involving many "co-conspirators" in His plans, even today. He doesn't need us yet desires our (active) involvement in His plans. He has the final say, but wants to hear our thoughts, questions, and concerns. God didn't make us to be robots but His children and heirs (Galatians 4:6-7). Prayer isn't magic. It's way more powerful.

Feasts & Celebrations

January 3 – The Holy Name of Jesus. In January we celebrate the Holy Name of Jesus. "... At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).

January 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort (1275). St. Raymond studied canon (Church) law before joining the Dominican Order. He worked for Pope Gregory IX, then was appointed archbishop of Tarragona, Spain. Afterwards, he was elected head of the Dominicans. He retired two years

later.

January 23 – St. Vincent of Saragossa (304). Born in Saragossa, Spain, St. Vincent trained as a deacon under Bishop Valerius. During the Diocletian persecutions, St. Vincent and the bishop were captured. St. Vincent was tortured but refused to deny Christ.

a – Saints Timothy and Titus (1st century). St. Timothy was converted by St. Paul and became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work, especially at Corinth. St. Titus served the early Church as a peacemaker and as administrator to a community on Crete.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.infaitphublishing.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the *Revised Standard Version* and the *New American Bible – Revised*)