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FOUNDED IN 1770

PRESENT CHURCH DEDICATED IN 1834

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 20, 2020

PASTORAL STAFF

Archbishop of St. Louis

The Most Reverend
Mitchell T. Rozanski

Rector

Father Nicholas Smith
Director, Office of Sacred Worship
Faculty, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

In Residence

Father Charles Samson
Instructor, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

5:30 PM (Saturday Evening)
8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 NOON,
and 5:00 PM

Daily Masses Monday through Friday

7:00 AM and 12:10 PM
SATURDAY— 7:00 AM

Live Stream Mass

7:00 AM Weekdays
10:30 AM Sunday
Access the live streams at:
oldcathedralstl.org

SACRAMENTS

Confessions

Daily, 11:30 AM—12:00 PM
Saturdays, 4:30 PM—5:15 PM

Marriage

Please arrange at least six months in
advance of the desired date.
To reserve a date or for more
information, please contact
Tracy Marklein at 314.231.3250.

Devotions

Perpetual Help Devotions:
Tuesdays, 12:00 PM

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 20

8:00 AM George M. Dankocsik
10:30 AM Parish Family
(Live Streamed)
12:00 PM The Lapushinski Family
5:00 PM Celebrant's Intentions

Monday, December 21

7:00 AM The Simon Family
12:10 PM Maria Detrick

Tuesday, December 22

7:00 AM Celebrant's Intentions
12:10 PM The Wiersma Family

Wednesday, December 23

7:00 AM The Mallen Family
12:10 PM The Lapushinski Family

Thursday, December 24 Christmas Eve

7:00 AM Celebrant's Intentions
5:00 PM Celebrant's Intentions
10:00 PM Celebrant's Intentions

Friday, December 25 Christmas Day

8:00 AM The Duker Family
10:30 AM Celebrant's Intentions
12:00 PM The Loire Family

Saturday, December 26

7:00 AM Lynn Hague
5:30 PM Celebrant's Intentions

Sunday, December 27

8:00 AM The Duker Family
10:30 AM Parish Family
(Live Streamed)
12:00 PM The Loire Family
5:00 PM Celebrant's Intentions

Readings for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd]/Lk 1:46-56
Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66
Thursday: *Morning:* 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79
Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25.
Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14. *Dawn:* Is 62:11-12/
Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20. *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14
Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Next 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

Observances for the week of December 20, 2020

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: Weekday in Advent
Wednesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Thursday: Christmas Eve
Friday: The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)
Saturday: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
Next Sunday: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

December 24

7:00 AM (Confessions and 12:10 Mass are cancelled)
RESERVATIONS ARE CLOSED for 5:00 PM Vigil Mass of Christmas.
10:00 PM Christmas Mass during the Night

December 25

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM
There is no 5:00 PM Mass on Christmas Day

December 31

7:00 AM (Confessions and 12:10 Mass are cancelled)
5:00 PM Vigil Mass, Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

January 1

8:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
(5:00 PM Mass is cancelled)

WEEKLY GIVING

The Old Cathedral has long been recognized as one of the most historic and beautiful churches of its time.

Our parish is proud of its more than 240 year history as a self-supporting Roman Catholic Parish. Your presence, prayer and generous kindness continue to make it so.

Your weekly envelope donations can still be made by mail or in person by check at the Old Cathedral rectory or you can set up online donations at :

www.oldcathedralstl.org/give

Sunday, 12/13/20

Online Donations \$475.00
Sunday Collection \$4515.00
Total \$4990.00

THE OLD CATHEDRAL

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FROM OUR RECTOR

Dear Old Cathedral Parishioners and Visitors:

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

There is a somewhat humorous, if not also very insightful, observation about the often-used command in Scripture: Do not be afraid. This observation is that any time we hear “fear not,” or “do not be afraid,” something very-worth-being-afraid-of is about to happen. In other words, the words “fear not” ought to strike fear into our hearts, because we are about to be asked to do something far outside of our comfort zone: to trust, to have faith, to grow, to love, to follow where the Lord is leading us.

There is something amusing in this, because there is also some truth to it. How many of us have had children say, “don’t be mad, but...” (followed by something that likely makes us mad), or heard someone say, “don’t worry, but...” (followed by something no one would blame us for worrying about).

But there is something quite insightful in this observation, too. And that is, we can laugh at the idea of it because we know, in the end, that all will be well. How do we know this? Because of why we are told not to be afraid: Do not fear, I am with you (Isaiah 41:10); Be strong, do not fear! He comes to save you (Isaiah 35:4); Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid (Mark 6:50). From the beginning of human time, God has promised us he will not forsake us, or leave us alone. And so today: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Mary, perfected in grace, has been chosen by God for something we’d agree that anyone of common sense would find frightening. But in her knowledge of God’s favor upon her (another way of saying God would always be with her), she steps boldly and fully into the unknown. She has been told that the Holy Spirit will come upon [her]; and that the power of the Most High will overshadow [her]. She will not be alone. She will have the help and grace of God, for whom nothing will be impossible.

And so her fiat – May it be done to me according to your word – makes perfect sense. How could she not say yes, when her faith and trust in a God who had nurtured his covenant and fulfilled his every promise, was affirmed by his envelopment of her in his love and protection? How could we not say yes, when the same God who found favor with Mary, finds favor with us and never forsakes us? He can strengthen us, Paul writes to the Romans. Where we cannot, God can. We do nothing alone, and all things through the grace of God.

The angels and prophets, and Jesus himself, are right to tell us “fear not.” For God is with us. Emmanuel. And so we can laugh at the observation regarding Scripture, and we can laugh in the face of our fear. And in these remaining days of Advent, we give thanks for our Triune God who desires to be in relationship with us, who dwelt among us and whose Holy Spirit empowers us in our faith. We do not have to be afraid.

Blessings on your Advent and week. Stay safe!!

-Father Smith

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Patrice Fagnant-Macarther, catholicexchange.com

Legend holds that St. Boniface was the first to co-opt the tradition for Christianity in the 8th century. He was attempting to convert the Druids who worshipped oak trees as the symbol of their idol. He instead offered the balsam fir tree, using its triangular shape to describe the Trinity and the fact that his evergreen boughs pointed to heaven, as a symbol of God.

Martin Luther is credited with bringing the popularity of the Christmas tree to Germany. Out on a winter evening one night composing a sermon, he was awed by the beauty of the stars. When he returned home, he attempted to recreate the beauty for his family by putting candles on an evergreen tree in his home. Christmas trees, like most Christmas traditions other than Church services, were adopted late in America. The Puritans frowned on all such “pagan” traditions. In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts made any observance of Christmas other than a church service a penal offense. It wasn’t until an influx of German and Irish immigrants came in the 19th century that the Puritan legacy was undermined. In 1846, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert (who was German) were pictured in the London News standing with their children around a Christmas tree. As a result, the popularity of Christmas trees soared, both in England and America. By 1920, the custom was almost universal.

While the Christmas tree tradition may have began as a more secular tradition, today we can firmly claim the symbol as a Christian one. Many families bless their Christmas trees and as www.catholiceducation.org/ points out, the symbol of a tree has deep roots in our faith. “We are reminded that our first parents were not allowed to eat from one tree, and that Christ paid the great price for our redemption by hanging on a tree.” In addition, the evergreen boughs and the lights that decorate them do remind us that Christ is the light of the world and that His light is everlasting. He has come to bring joy and light into our dark world.



CHRISTMAS MASS RESERVATIONS

Due to St. Louis COVID-19 mandates that limit the percentage of people gathering and 6-foot social distancing, we are taking reservations for Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. 110 person capacity per Mass.

There are two ways to sign up.

1. EMAIL THE PARISH at:

oldcathedral@att.net

Provide:

- Name
- Phone number
- Number in your party
- Date of Mass
- Time of Mass

2. CALL THE PARISH at::

314-231-3250

Monday – Friday, 8AM – 2 PM

Speak with Tracy Marklein or leave a message providing:

- Name
- Phone number
- Number in your party
- Date of Mass
- Time of Mass

PLEASE NOTE:

Reservations will be taken until the Mass is at full capacity. You will only receive a response if *we can not* accommodate your reservation. If you do not receive a response, then your reservation is secure.

Reservations are only for the exact date and time of the Mass you request.

CHRISTMAS EVE

RESERVATIONS ARE CLOSED FOR 5:00 PM

10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00 AM

10:30 AM (Live Streamed)

12:00 PM

SAINTS OF THE WEEK



Saint Peter Canisius, priest, Doctor of the Church (December 21): Saint Peter Canisius, SJ (Dutch: Pieter Kanis), who lived from May 8, 1521, to December 21, 1597. He was a Dutch Jesuit priest who supported the Catholic faith during the Protestant Reformation in Germany, Austria, Bohemia, Moravia, and Switzerland. The restoration of the Catholic Church in Germany after the Protestant Reformation is largely attributed to the work there of the Society of Jesus, which Peter Canisius led. He organized the German Jesuit province, founded several colleges, and authored the popular and enduring catechism, *Institutiones Christianae Pietatis*. He is known as the “Second Apostle of Germany” and is a Doctor of the Church.



Saint John of Kanty, priest (December 23): Saint John of Kanty was born in Kety, a small town near Oswiecim (more infamously known as Auschwitz), Poland, to Stanislaw and Anna Kanty. He attended the Krakow Academy at which he attained his bachelor degree, and licentiate.

In 1418, he became a Doctor of Philosophy. Upon graduation he spend the next three year conducting philosophy classes at the university, while preparing for the priesthood.

Upon his ordination, he became rector at the school of the Canons Regular of the Most Holy Sepulcher in Miechow. While there, he was offered a professorship of Sacred Scripture back at his alma mater, the Krakow Academy, which would later be named the Jagiellonian University.

He attained a doctorate in theology and eventually became director of the theology department. He held the professorship until his death in 1473.

John spent many hours copying manuscripts of the Holy Scriptures, theological tracts, and other scholarly works. In physics, he helped develop Jean Buridan’s theory of impetus, which anticipated the work of Galileo and Newton.

During his time in Krakow, John Kanty became well known in the city for his generosity and compassion toward the poor, especially needy students at the university. He subsisted on what was strictly necessary to sustain his life, giving alms regularly to the poor. He made one pilgrimage on foot to Rome. Michael Miechowita, the medieval Polish historian and the saint’s first biographer, described the saint’s extreme humility and charity.

He died while living in retirement at this alma mater on December 24, 1473, aged 83. His remains were interred in the Collegiate Church of Saint Anne, where his tomb became and remains a popular pilgrimage site. He is patron of the diocese of Bielsko-Zywiec (since 1992) and students.

Saint Stephen, protomartyr (December 26): Saint Stephen, traditionally venerated as the Protomartyr or first martyr of Christianity, was according to the Act of the Apostles a deacon in the early Church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings.

Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he made a long speech fiercely denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and was then stoned to death. His martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus, a Pharisee who would later himself become a follower of Jesus.

The only primary source for information about Stephen is the Acts of the Apostles. Stephen is mentioned in Acts 6 as one of the Greek-speaking Hellenistic Jews selected to participate in a fairer distribution of welfare to the Greek-speaking widows.

Stephen’s name is derived from the Greek *stephanos*, meaning “crown.”



All you Holy Men and Women, Saints of God, pray for us.

Civil War Nativity Scene

Bryan Buer, Old Cathedral Historian

St. Louis was a vital city during the Civil War. The State of Missouri was a Union-slave state, due to the Compromise of 1820 (or the “Missouri Compromise”). The state experienced the third most action of the war. The governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, posed as a moderate, but would eventually reveal himself to be a Confederate sympathizer from the outset of the Civil War. He would constantly struggle to regain control of St. Louis.

The city has many markers, remembering the dark grip the war had upon St. Louis at this time. Abraham Lincoln controlled the entire Mississippi River during the war, with the mighty river’s greatest city being in Union control. At the end of the war, the Old Cathedral was gifted a Nativity Scene to celebrate the end of the most devastating war on U.S. soil.

So this Christmas season, when we celebrate mass, the Basilica will put on display this beautiful, timeless treasure. Not only does it exhibit the birth of our Lord, it also personifies the end of this dark chapter in American History.





Christmas 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Rejoice! The weeks of Advent waiting are over, and Christ is born!

We rejoice in our Savior's birth—remembering the great gift of faith He has given us through the mystery of His incarnation and the saving power of His death and resurrection.

If you are like me, you have a lot of uncertainty about the coming weeks and months. Because of the pandemic, there are many challenges ahead. But I am sure of one thing, Christ will be with us in the midst of our difficulties. Now is the time for Catholics to step forward, giving generously to help those in need.

Each year, the people of the archdiocese are asked to make a special gift on Christmas Day to support our seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. These men are responding to Christ's call to follow Him as they discern a vocation to the holy priesthood and have dedicated themselves to living, growing, and serving in His love as they prepare for a life of parish ministry. God-willing, these men will bring the faith given to us by Christ 2,000 years ago to future generations.

This Christmas, I ask you to pray for vocations and for all our priests and seminarians. I also ask you to be generous in your donation to the Christmas collection at your parish, which helps ensure that our seminarians receive the education and formation they need to grow closer to Christ each day. Your support is a source of inspiration for the seminarians and helps to build up the Church in St. Louis. Together, we can encourage our future priests to walk the path of holiness as they seek to configure their hearts to the Heart of Jesus Christ.

I am blessed to be celebrating my first Christmas with the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis! I am grateful for the warm welcome I have already received. What a gift it is to be part of this community! Please be assured of my prayers for you during the season of Christmas. May the Lord of life come into your hearts and homes in a special way during this holy time of year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Mitchell T. Rozanski

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis



The priests and staff of the Basilica of Saint Louis, King of France, extend our prayerful best wishes for a blessed Christmas Season.

May the newborn Savior fill you with His love and peace.

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