F I R S T  S U N D A Y  O F  A D V E N T
D E C E M B E R  3 ,  2 0 2 3

M A S S E S  O N  T H E  L O R D ’ S  D A Y
5:00 pm Sat (vigil)
8:00 am, 10:00 am,
12:00 noon, 5:00 pm
LiveStreaming of
Sunday Mass and daily
Mass offered at 8:00 am

W E E K D A Y  M A S S E S
7:00 am (Mon-Fri)
8:00 am (Mon-Sat)
12:05 pm (Mon-Fri)

O P E N  W E E K D A Y S
6:30 am – 5:00 pm

L I T U R G Y  O F  T H E  H O U R S
Evening Prayer
4:30 pm (Sat)

O P E N  S A T U R D A Y /  S U N D A Y
7:00 am – 6:30 pm

C O N F E S S I O N S
7:30–8:00 am
(Monday through Friday)
3:30–4:50 pm (Sat)
9:00–9:50 am (Sun)
11:00–11:50 am (Sun)

P E R P E T U A L  H E L P  D E V O T I O N S
Following 8:00 am &
12:05 pm Mass (Tues)

E U C H A R I S T I C  A D O R A T I O N
3:30 pm–4:30 pm (Sat)
8:30 am–11:45 am
(Every First Friday)
WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski and the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis welcome you and hope that your time in our Mother Church may be an opportunity to share our faith and joy in Jesus Christ.

Please enjoy the beauty of this building dedicated to the glory of God and built for the inspiration of all who enter. Public tours of the Cathedral led by volunteer guides are available most weekdays, call for availability.

All visitors who are not of the Catholic faith are welcome to join us in prayer, but not to receive Holy Communion. Reception of Holy Communion is a sign of unity of faith and full membership in the Catholic community. Together let us pray for the eventual unity of all believers.

If you desire to become a member of the Catholic Church or to become a member of the Cathedral Basilica Parish, please complete a registration card, available at the entrances the church.

All contributions to the Cathedral Basilica parish, ministries, and maintenance are sincerely appreciated.

CATHEDRAL CONCERTS
314.533.7662

TOURS
314.373.8205

Mass Intentions
Specific Mass intentions for each scheduled Mass listed regularly in this bulletin are made by individual request. Requests for Mass intentions may be directed to the rectory by calling 314-373-8202.

Cathedral Tours
Tours of our beautiful church are available during the week (pending other events). To book a tour, please visit our website to submit a “tour inquiry” form (https://cathedralstl.org/tour-info) or contact Susie Irons at 314-373-8205.

If you are interested in volunteering as a docent, please contact Susie siron@cathedralstl.org
Dear Parishioners,

Today we begin the Season of Advent, which also marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. This year we focus our attention on the Gospel of Mark. Today, the Gospel reading highlights the importance of the Lord’s return at the end of time, an important Advent theme.

As we begin a new liturgical year with this first Sunday of Advent, we are invited by the Church to take to heart the words of Jesus in today’s Gospel text: “Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake. Be on your guard.” Doing so does not mean being filled with anxiety or stress about the coming of the Lord, but it does mean making the most of the opportunities presented to us each day. We can especially draw near to the Lord in prayer and in the reception of the Sacraments, by being of service to others for both those near and dear to us and those who are strangers.

Today’s Gospel is taken from the end of Mark’s Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark’s account of Jesus’ Passion. Having been questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples—Peter, James, John, and Andrew—who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today’s passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus’ warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasizes the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark’s Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark’s audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times. Most likely, times of great conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus’ warning to remain alert and watchful, and they found in His words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today’s Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

Msgr. Henry Breier
Advent is a time to sharpen our longing for the Lord

Notice how he’s coming into our lives and help others become aware

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I wonder if we’ve thought much about the spirituality of time and place. The readings this week invite us to do so.

One of the phrases we hear repeatedly from the prophet Isaiah this week is: “On that day…”. Psalm 72 reinforces this with the refrain: “Justice shall flourish in his time…”. There’s clearly a spirituality of time at work here.

Another of the phrases we hear from Isaiah throughout the week is: “On this mountain…”. Both Psalm 23 and Psalm 122 reinforce that with refrains that speak about going to or dwelling in “the house of the Lord.” Clearly there’s a spirituality of place at work here.

When the readings from Isaiah and the Psalms focus on this sense of time and place, however, it’s always by way of anticipation: They’re waiting for something that the Lord is going to do.

It’s fascinating, then, in the middle of the week, when the Gospel reading from Matthew starts out: “At that time, Jesus…went up the mountain.” Matthew’s Gospel is filled with patterns of prophecy and fulfillment, and this is another example. The Hebrew Scriptures had fostered an anticipatory spirituality of time and place. Jesus, Matthew is pointing out, now fulfills that anticipation. “At that time, on this mountain,” Jesus healed the sick and then multiplied loaves and fishes to feed a hungry crowd. This is the time and place of the Lord’s promised intervention!

With a simple pivot, St. Bernard gives us a beautiful way to turn that into a spirituality for Advent. He says, simply: “We know that there are three comings of the Lord.” The first was the coming of the Son in the flesh. The last is the coming of Jesus at the end of time. But the middle one is when Jesus comes into our hearts, into our lives.

St. Bernard’s idea has a beautiful continuity with the spirituality of time and place in the Scripture readings this first week of Advent. The time is now; the place is my own heart! The Jewish people longed for the coming of the Messiah, and Jesus came to fulfill that longing. Now we long for Him to come into our hearts, and Advent is a time to sharpen both that longing and our noticing the ways He’s coming into our lives.

All of this pertains to our new focus on evangelization in a twofold way.

The first is by listening. Are we prepared to ask people about that middle coming of Jesus? We might do so with two simple questions: How has Jesus been coming into your life this week? Or, how do you experience yourself longing for the coming of Jesus into your life these days?

The second is by speaking. Are we prepared to talk to people about the middle coming of Jesus in our own lives? Can we speak about the longing of our own hearts or the ways that Jesus has been coming into our own lives?

I hope this Advent will help us to develop a deeper spirituality of time and place.

Note: This column appeared in the St. Louis Review for December 2-3 and may be read in the print edition or at https://it.ly/35qjOXr
Experience Great Music in a Great Space!
2023 - 2024 Season

Chamber Music Concerts
Our series of 3 FREE concerts that brings the great music to you.
The featured players in each concert are Jennifer Mazzoni, flute; Kristin Ahlstrom, violin; Shannon Farrell Williams, viola; Bjorn Ranheim, cello; Matthew Mazzoni, piano

Friday, Sept 8, 7pm
Mary Queen of Peace
676 W. Lockwood, 63119

Sunday, Sept 10, 3pm
Immaculate Heart of Mary
8 West Highway D, New Melle, 63365

Tuesday, Sept 12, 7pm
Peace Lutheran
737 Barracksview Road, 63125

Voices of St. Alphonsus
Danny DuMaline, Director
Sunday, September 24, 2023 2:30pm
Welcomed by Coldwell Banker Realty - Gundaker and Paul & Amy Mittelstadt

VOCES8
Friday, October 20, 2023 8:00pm
Welcomed by Bruce & Linda Ryder

Vienna Boys Choir
Monday, November 13, 2023 8:00pm

Christmas at the Cathedral
with the St. Louis Archdiocesan Choirs & Orchestra
Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:30am (NOTE TIME)
Sunday, December 3, 2023 2:30pm
Welcomed by Favazza’s Restaurant and Michael Bavisk & Kathleen Skelly

Missouri State University Chorale
Cameron LaBarr, Director
Friday, January 12, 2024 8:00pm

North City Deanery Choir
Simeon A. Layne, Jr., Director
Friday, February 2, 2024 8:00pm
Welcomed by Coldwell Banker Realty - Gundaker and Paul & Amy Mittelstadt

St. Louis Symphony & Chorus
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 8:00pm

Chanticleer
Monday, April 8, 2024 8:00pm
The Boston Camerata
Friday, April 19, 2024 8:00pm

Artists & Dates subject to change

CathedralConcerts.org 314-533-7662
Christmas Memorial Poinsettias

The beautiful poinsettias and greenery that adorn our Cathedral are a special part of the celebration of Christmas at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. This year, we invite all parishioners and visitors to share in the experience through a memorial or thanksgiving gift by purchasing one or more of the poinsettias decorating the Nativity Scene or the Baptismal Font. Memorial Poinsettias are $10.00 each. In addition, names of person(s) being honored will appear in the weekend and Christmas bulletins.

Please indicate in whose memory, or in whose honor you wish the flowers to be dedicated. Completed forms and payment may be placed in an envelope and dropped into the weekend offertory baskets, OR mailed to: Cathedral Basilica of St Louis, c/o Memorial Poinsettias, 4431 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO, 63108

Please Check one: ___ in memory of OR in honor of _____
Name of person/ family____________________________________

Please Check one: ___ in memory of OR in honor of _____
Name of person/ family____________________________________

Please Check one: ___ in memory of OR in honor of _____
Name of person/ family____________________________________

Given by____________________________________
Phone________________

Please make checks payable to:
Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis

Order by Monday, December 11
Women of the Cathedral
The mission of the Women of the Cathedral is to promote friendship and fellowship among the women of the Cathedral parish. Our group offers encouragement, friendship, hope, support and spiritual enrichment to all women in their many roles of life as mothers, grandmothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and friends.

Please watch this space for updates on Women of the Cathedral, and dates of times of upcoming gatherings. Thank you.

First Communion
Congratulations to Maura, one of our parishioners, who made her First Communion last Sunday.
A Thought on The Sanctity Of Life
“The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life

What Catholics Believe
Join us at the Cathedral Basilica two Wednesdays a month, when Fr. Povis will present an in-depth theological reflection on the articles of the Apostles’ Creed.
-6:30pm in Boland Hall
-50 minute presentation followed by social
-Feel free to bring food and drink
-Designed for adults, but all are welcome!

Next Session
December 6
He Ascended into Heaven

December 20
He Ascended into Heaven (Part II)

Daily Readings for the Week...
The readings are included each week so that the parishioners who are unable to join us for daily Mass will be able to consider and pray them in union with the whole Church.

Readings for the Week
December 3, 2023 through December 10, 2023

Sunday: 2 Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 1 Cor 1:3-9
Mk 13:33-37

Monday: 175: Is 2:1-5 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: 176: Is 11:1-10 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: 177: Is 25:6-10a Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: 178: Is 26:1-6 Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: 689: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: 180: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a 8


Pray for the Sick
It is our responsibility in the Lord to remember the sick, who are especially close to the Redeemer in their suffering.

Roxanne Ali  Mary Riley
Linda Baldwin  Nicole Pace
Janice Bashford  Resy Sanchez
Barbara Beckemeyer  Mickey Shears
Edwin Ayala Padilla  Mary Anne Work
Pauline Price  Betty Ytzaina
David Washington  Sharon Kay Moore
Dorothy Quinn  Therese Terri Svehla
Mary Leah Kovarik  Deborah Lee
Janetta Williams  Lawson Burford
Kelvin Ayala Reyes  Margaret Aubermann
Anima Christi Young Adults
Anyone between the ages of 18 and 39 is invited to join in prayer and fellowship with the young adult community of the Cathedral Basilica on Thursday, December 7th. Our gathering begins with Holy Hour at 5:30pm followed by Mass at 6:30pm (enter through the west door, by the playground). Afterward there will be dinner in Boland Hall. Please join us, in full or in part, to deepen your relationship with Christ and with one another.

Appointment with Fr. Marco
Due to the tuckpointing project on the exterior of the Cathedral Basilica, Fr. Marco is no longer in his office in the vestibule. He is, however, available for confession and spiritual discussion in the rectory of Cathedral through appointments.
To schedule and appointment with Fr. Marco, please call

Casserole Drop Off Day and Volunteers Needed
Volunteer coordinators will hold the next “drop off” of homemade casseroles and non-perishable food for the homeless in the parish parking lot (between the church and the school) on Thursday, December 7, 2023 from 1-2 pm.
In addition, we need a couple of volunteer cooks so if you are interested in making a monthly casserole (simple recipes provided), please contact Skip or Nicki Batchelor at 916-834-4843. Thanks.

Weekly Thoughts on Giving
“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. We make our lives too busy. We plan our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to how God is calling you right now to help build His kingdom on earth.
Parish Information

Registration in Parish
To join our parish, please register online at [https://cathedralstl.org/about-basilica/parish-life](https://cathedralstl.org/about-basilica/parish-life) or call the rectory at 314-373-8202.

Online Giving is a secure and convenient web-based service to make your weekly or monthly contributions to Cathedral Parish from your computer, or laptop, or tablet. Simply access the Cathedral website (www.cathedralstl.org) and go to Parish Online Giving under the “GIVE” tab. Then follow the easy instructions to set up your secure account and authorize your contributions to be automatically withdrawn from your bank account on the date you specify.

Baptism of Infants
Parents requesting Baptism should be registered members of the parish. To schedule baptisms or register for baptismal preparation classes for parents or godparents, contact the rectory at 314-373-8202.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
For persons interested in becoming Catholic, contact the rectory at 314-373-8202.

Anointing of the Sick
Parishioners facing surgery or struggling with serious illness may request this sacrament by calling the rectory at 314-373-8202.

Vocations to Christian Marriage
Couples planning to marry at the Cathedral Basilica may contact Mary Ann Fox at 314-373-8208.

Vocations to Holy Orders and Consecrated Life
Those who feel called to this life are invited to call the Archdiocesan Office of Vocations.