

Saint Aloysius Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish

December 9, 2018-Second Sunday of Advent



Dear Friends in Christ,

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” PHIL. 1:9-10. Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that.

This time of year, our prayers are especially need for those who are sick (with that stomach flue that is going around!) and home-bound. With the change in weather, cloudy skies, and unseasonal cold snaps it can also be a

depressing time for many. Please join me in praying for those in our parish who are experiencing such conditions; that the Lord of Healing might draw close and bring to full health those who are ill.

If you or a loved one needs communion, reconciliation, or anointing please call Debbie or me in the office and I or one of the home-bound ministers will respond to your call as quickly as possible. If you find yourself in the hospital and in need of a visit or the Sacraments, likewise, call us. Communication with us is key – the “grape-vine” doesn’t always get to us in a timely manner.

The Second Sunday of Advent is sometimes called the Sunday of Hope as we light the second candle on our Advent Wreath: The Candle of Hope. “Hope” is defined as: An optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large. During this Sunday of Advent our minds and hearts are turned to the events we are hoping for: The coming of God among us at Christmas through the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord; The coming of God at the end of time as we look forward to our great passing over into the realm of Heaven; The coming of God each day into our hearts to love us and guide us. With hearts filled with the hope promised through the cross and resurrection we pray that our hope will quickly be fulfilled.

Thanks again to all who so generously responded to our need for a new boiler (it is working (whewh!) but still not paid for.) and the anonymous gifts given to the parish as we step into this quarter of our fiscal year. If we can collect more money than necessary for the boiler, we will apply it toward the new air conditioner which needs to be addressed soon. Thanks so much for your expression of St. Al’s the Christmas season. We too need your gift for the general operation of our parish. Thank you so much.

Christmas trees; lights: green, red, and blue.
Gifts; shopping; joyful music; pretty cards; holiday greetings.

Who is in the manger? How will you respond?

With Pastoral Affection,
Fr. Clint, O.P. Pastor

Fr. Clinton P. Honkomp, O.P. (303) 522-0196	Pastor
Deacon Mick Palazzolo	Social Justice/Campus Ministry
Deacon. Jim Dodge	Adult Education/Hospital Ministry
Mr. David Beach	Deacon Candidate
Mr. Rich Harkins	Interim Principal
Mrs. Debbie Mandeville	Parish Secretary
Mrs. Monica Maggio	Accounting
Mrs. Angie Daniels	School Secretary
Mrs. Jaimie Kauffman	Development Director
Mr. Joe Dinardo	Maintenance
Mrs. Alice Hill	Liturgy & Music
Mr. Robert Dilley	Homebound Ministry

Mass Times: Saturday (vigil) 4:30 pm
Sunday 8:00 am, 10:30 am
Holy Days: As announced

Daily Mass: W, Th, F: 6:20 am
Tuesday: 8:20 am

Communion Service: Monday: 6:20am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 3:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration:
First Friday/Saturday: Friday 7:00 am to Sat 8:00 am
Other Fridays: 7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Parish Office Hours: M - F: 8:30 am - 4:00pm
School Office Hours: M - F: 7:45 am - 3:30 pm
2000 E. Sangamon Avenue (mailing address: 2119 N. 20th St.)
Springfield, Illinois 62702
Church: (217) 544-4554 Fax: (217) 544-4963
School: (217) 544-4553 Fax: (217) 544-1680

www.saintaloysius.org



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Mary Coady
Gary McCandless
Michelle Stewart
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Bill Warren
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Greg Stumpf

Principal's Page

Mr. Rich Harkins

May blessings continue thru this Advent season. Year to year we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping, putting up decorations and light displays, baking, planning for parties and get togethers and all the distractions that take us away from the real meaning. Let's spend more time this season praying and *preparing* our hearts for Christ's coming.

Special prayers and blessings to our 2nd graders who received their first reconciliation last Tuesday evening. Preparing to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time is an exciting time. It is a time for focus on God's mercy, how we forgive among our family, friends, and community, and how we celebrate forgiveness. Advent is a wonderful time for reconciliation. It gives us all the opportunity to 'clear a way' for our Lord in our hearts. What better way to prepare our-selves for Christ's coming than beginning advent with a clean heart.

The Knights of Columbus Council 364, located at 2200 Meadowbrook Road, is once again providing an All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Breakfast today, Sunday December 9, 2018, 8:00am until Noon. Cost is \$10 for adults and teens; \$5 for children ages 6-12; children under 6 are Free. All proceeds benefit **Springfield Catholic Schools** focusing on tuition scholarships. There will be entertainment by our school choirs and Santa Claus will be present for our little guests starting around 9:00am.

The **Mini-Mega-Raffle** tickets are a major fundraising undertaking for the school and parish and we are asking you to make every effort to sell these, not just to people in the parish, but to anyone you happen to know. As we have stated many times, tuition only covers half of the cost to educate one child, and this is a new initiative to help us meet those costs of education. Tickets are \$20, with a payout of \$5,000.00 on Thursday, December 20. Tickets are also be available at the parish and school office for sale. A special thanks to Staab Funeral Home and O'Connor Mailing for sponsoring this event and tickets printed courtesy of HSHS-Hospital Sisters Health Systems.

St. Nick Shopper will be held on Thursday, December 13 from 8:00am-3:00pm. Students will have the opportunity to do their Christmas shopping here at school. Gifts for all ages will be available to purchase for \$3.50 each and will even be gift wrapped! Not only is this a great fundraiser for our school, but it's a great learning opportunity for the students as they think of others first and what it means to give. The students really enjoy shopping through our school store to find the 'perfect' gift for their loved one. If you would like to help decorate gift bags, set-up the event, and /or work the event, please call Traci Pitchford at 862-4060.

Save the date: This year our Christmas program will take place at 6:30pm on December 20th in the school gymnasium.

Our weekly **Saturday bingo at Caritas Hall** supports our school budget. It takes a lot of volunteers throughout the year. This is also a great opportunity to earn service hours! These monies benefit the school by keeping our tuition costs down. Many thanks for your cooperation and participation!

Shop at Amazon.com...you can actually support St. Aloysius School. Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com> and choose St. Aloysius as the organization you support. It's that simple. It doesn't cost anything and St. Aloysius then gets a percentage from every purchase.

Because it's all about Jesus,
Rich Harkins

— Parish Data —

PARISH CALENDAR				WEEKLY PARISH OFFERING		
December	9	9:00am	Catholic Standard Time	<u>Week 23</u>	<u>December 2</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
December	9	2:00pm	Advent Penance Service (St. Joseph)	Loose Collection	\$292.00	\$10,060.20
December	10	6:20am	Communion Service		Weekly Envelopes	\$9,943.50
December	11	8:20am	All School Mass	Total		\$10,235.50
December	11	9:00am	All School Penance Service		<i>The budgeted amount is the minimal required to maintain services, employee benefits, utilities, and maintenance at current levels and does not provide for debt payment, unbudgeted repairs or improvements, or long term planning for the parish or school. Offerings Budget for the month of December is \$40,000.00. We have received 26% of the needed funding to meet essential budget obligations.</i>	
December	12	8:15am	Legion of Mary			
December	12	1:30am	Early School Dismissal			
December	12	3:15am	School Choir			
December	12	7:00pm	RCIA			
December	13		St. Nicholas Shopper			
December	13	7:00pm	Adult Choir			
December	14	7:00am	Adoration			
December	14	5:00pm	Benediction			
December	14	6:00pm	Winter Warming Center			
Special Prayers/Blessings				ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL		
 Special Prayers/Blessings <i>Kayleigh Porter</i> who baptized into the Catholic faith. We profess, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.				Assessment (2018)		\$49,968.00
				Total Pledge (December 3, 2018)		\$18,635.00
				Residual		\$31,333.00
Weekly Attendance-December 1-2				Boiler Project		
Sat4:30pm	Sun 8:00	Sun 10:30	Total	Amount		\$125,000.00
134	114	167	415	Total Collected		\$108,241.11
				Residual (December 3, 2018)		\$16,758.89
Parish Ministry Schedule - Sat-Sun - December 15-16						
Saturday, 4:30pm		Sunday, 8:00am		Sunday, 10:30am		
Music	Adult Choir	Janet Kehoe		St. Al's Youth Singers		
Lector	John Cernich	Tom Kohrus		Rich Pitchford		
E.M.	Harvey and Nancy Schrenk	Alex Feger, Michele Stewart		Michelle Buhl, Traci Pitchford		
Servers	Nicholas G. Rachel S.	Kevin K. Steve K.		Allison O. Rebecca P.		
In charity, please remember in your prayers....Honora Forgas, Louise Wolosick, Norma Hubbard, Edith Caruso, Joseph Luparell, Don Kmett, William Wente, Emma Pianezza, Carmen Santini, Armand Colin, Evelyn Collins, Judy Danna, Carolyn Venvertloh, Larry Selinger, Al Giacomini, Mary Pratt, June Forgas, Barbara Pulliam, Leona Murphy, James Todd, Charlie Barber, Gilda Fulgenzi. 2017.....Donald Drendel, Denzil DeVanne, Walther Fliege, Barbara Todd, Helen Richardson, Mary Bedolli, Donald Mroscak, August Papilli, Frances Emmons, Robert Berberet Sr. Katie Raffa, John Williams, Barbara Veseling, Mike Timko, Richard Neal Sr. Marianne Charles, Robert Wolf, Virginia Wagner and Betty Andretta. 2018..... Larry Brooks, Katherine Stoecker, Betty Chernis, Kathy Martin, Beatrice Nimpson, Fredrick Bedolli, Mary Kulek, Bernie Hagele, Dorothy Warrington, Mary LeMasters, Peg Wilson, Annette Hickman, Edna Kennedy, Joseph Carlove, Bernadine Seitz, Joseph Crowe, and Janet Coe.						



Around the Church

Sounds of Christmas...Students from the Springfield Catholic Schools came together to record a Christmas Commercial. Our very own, second grade student Elizabeth C. represented St. Al's at Neuhoff Media and did a fantastic job! Thank you Elizabeth! The commercial will air Monday, December 10th through Christmas Eve. Tune in to stations 104.5 WFMB, Sports Radio 1450, 99.7 The Mix or 96.7 Bob FM.

All parishioners are invited to participate in the ***Peace in the Womb Christmas Caroling*** event on Friday, Dec. 14th at 3:00pm. Song sheets will be provided. The event will only last for 1 hour from 3:00-4:00pm. Feel free to bring beverages, such as coffee or hot chocolate. The event will be held in front of Planned Parenthood, 601 N. Bruns Lane, Springfield, IL. Sponsored locally by Springfield Pro-Life Action Committee, nationally by the Pro-Life Action League in Chicago.

Healthy Spaces for Helping...If you are interested in learning how to better care for people in need in the Springfield community, come to the Cathedral Atrium on Monday, December 10, at 6:00pm for a 45 min presentation about the effects of trauma (abuse, neglect, living in poverty) on children and adults. You will also learn why being trauma-aware is essential to responding to the needs of our community, particularly people and populations who are homeless or live in poverty. Contact Vicki Compton at vcompton@cathedral.dio.org or 522-3342 for more information or to RSVP.

Lessons and Carols...Celebrate the Advent season with Scripture and carols led by the Cathedral priests and the Cathedral choir. Cathedral, Sunday, December 16, 7:00pm.

The Infancy Narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke...While many people are getting caught up in the secular frenzy of Christmas, take a break from the holiday hustle and join Father Friedel in focusing with the Church on preparing to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child. Cathedral Atrium, Tuesdays December 11 and 18...7:00pm.

Carols at Noon...Mark Gifford, Cathedral Organist plays an hour of Christmas Carols on the Cathedral Pipe Organ. Free and family friendly. Cathedral, Wednesday, December 26... Noon.

Butler Funeral Home... 2019 Catholic Calendars Available. The Butler Family of Organizations invites you to stop by any of their locations ...Kirlin-Egan & Butler Funeral Home – Springfield, McCullough-Delaney & Butler Funeral Home – New Berlin, Boardman-Smith Funeral Home – Springfield, and Staab-Polk Memorial Home – Chatham to pick up a complimentary 2019 Catholic calendar.

The Filipino Community of Springfield invites all to their nine-day novena Masses known as *"Simbang Gabi"* December 13-21 at 6:00pm. to be held at Blessed Sacrament Church. Bishop Paprocki will preside the closing Mass on December 21. Light refreshments.

Think about it

Whenever somebody greets me, I usually say, "good, and you?"

It works. Whether they say "How's it going?" "How're you doing?" or something else like that.

"good, and you?" Usually it works. Last week it didn't.

They said, "It's good to see you."

I was on autopilot, so I said "good, and you?"

They knew what I had said before I did. The silence was awkward.

Not that I said anything bad. I just said it without thinking.
"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

We say that at every Mass. So much so that we forget what we're saying.

The next time you're at Mass, think about it while you say it.

When you say it, what are you really saying? You're really saying two things.

"Lord, I am not worthy..."

First, it's a reality check. A moment of honesty. Understanding that we are none of us worthy of the gift that we are about to receive. Because that's when we say it. Right before we receive the Eucharist.

Understanding that this is not something we have to earn. Or even can earn. This is a gift. A gift given for each one of us.

"...but only say the word..."

Second, it's trust. An absolute certainty that God is good for His word. That we can rely completely on God.

Again, this is not something we can earn. This comes from the heart of the Giver. From the heart of God. A heart that we can trust. No matter what.

May God grant us the grace to think before we speak. And the peace that only comes from trusting in the heart of God.

- Deacon Jim



Parish Bulletin Board



Catholic Standard Time... Catholic Standard Time today! Focus for 9:00am Sunday, December 9 ... *Which Messiah?* Old Testament Expectations for Christ. Next Sunday, December 16, *But I Already Goy a Divorce?* Annulments and Marriage as Sacrament.

Our **Advent Penance Service** is scheduled for today, Sunday, December 9, 2:00pm at St. Joseph Church (Springfield). A number of priests will be available to celebrate the sacrament with you. This is a beautiful way to prepare for the Christmas season.

Boiler update... We have collected \$108,241.11 (December 3, 2018) towards this project. The heat is on! and installation is almost complete. If you haven't contributed, please help us raise the funds for our new boiler. If you have contributed, again thank you!

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal... Thanks to those who have already pledged. So far, 68 households have pledged \$18,635.00 toward our goal of \$49,968.00. We are at 37% of our goal. If we fall short of our goal, the balance must be paid from our operating funds. Please make your pledge this week, knowing it directly helps our parish. Credit card and automatic installment payments are available. Another easy option is to make your pledge online, <http://www.dio.org/about/giving.html>. May the Lord bless you for your generosity.

RCIA meets on Wednesday at the parish house. You can contact the parish office (544-4544) to obtain more information. All are invited to any of the Wednesday sessions. Your word or deed can make a difference. The schedule includes: December 12, Un-packing the Christmas Story, Paula Petrilli. December 19-January 2-Christmas Break. January 9, Morality I-Introduction, virtue, vice, David Beach. January 16, Morality II, Commandments 1-3, John Cernich.

Catholic Charities Angel Tree.... the gift drive ends today. Catholic Charities will be here this week to collect the items and the set the items up in a "Holiday Store" where eligible parents will be able to choose several gifts for each child. Last year we had great success when allowing the parents to personally choose the gifts and toys for each of their own children, over 1500 children received gifts last year. Thank you for your generosity!

Shop With Scrip...Finish up your holiday shopping and order your gift cards through Shop with Scrip. Please return all order forms by Monday, December 10 to receive your gift cards Monday, December 17. If you have any questions please contact Jaimie Kauffman at jaimie.kauffman@saintalloysius.org or 217-544-4554. Thank you!

Tis the Season of Giving! IRA owners who are age 70 1/2 or older can avoid paying income tax on part or all of their required distribution if they directly transfer an IRA withdrawal to a qualifying charity. An IRA charitable contribution of up to \$100,000 can also be used to satisfy the minimum distribution requirement. To qualify for the tax break, charitable distributions for 2018 must be paid directly from your IRA to a qualified charity by the end of the calendar year. Talk to your accountant and year with generosity.

Advent Wreath...Wheel-turning of any kind was prohibited beginning on Martinmas Day. Originally, the Advent Wreath was an unused wagon wheel decorated with evergreens and candles and suspended from the rafters in German homes. When roads were dirt and often filled with potholes and ruts, wagon wheels were quite valuable. Rather than leave their wheels outside-subject to the winter elements-people brought them inside and often suspended them from the ceiling to dry. Adapted by the Christian church, it includes four candles for each of the four Sundays of Advent. The candles are traditionally white, but in modern times, three purple and one pink are often used. The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent, also called "*Gaudette*" or "*Rejoicing Sunday*".

St. Al's Seniors: We will meet for breakfast on Tuesday, December 18 at 9:15am (after the 8:20am) at the Parkway Café. Please join us!

A **playpen** will be placed in the vestibule of the church next weekend (December 15-16) for you to place any new or kindly used/clean baby clothes which are given to expectant mothers. Items needed this month are diapers and formula.

Please join us for our school **Advent** ceremonies where students will be doing skits about the Nativity each Monday morning at 8:20am during Advent.

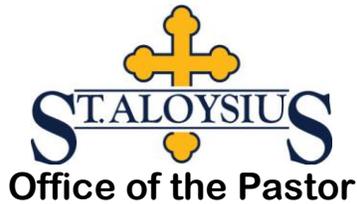
Just a reminder...on days of **inclement weather** mass will be cancelled when the Catholic grade schools are closed .

St. Aloysius Prayer Chain: If you have a special intention or someone whom you would like prayers offered please call Mrs. Norma Capranica @ 217-629-8714 or Mrs. Vikki Warren @ 217-544-2299.



Mass Intentions

- December 10 Advent Weekday**
6:20am Communion Service
- December 11 Advent Weekday**
8:20am Laurine Schroeder +
- December 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe**
6:20am Armand Colin +
- December 13 St. Lucy**
6:20am Kathy Martin +
- December 14 St. John the Cross**
6:20am Mike Timko+
- December 15 Advent Weekday**
- December 16 3rd Sunday of Advent**
Sat 4:30pm Roy Kennedy+
Sun 8:00am All Parishioners+
Sun 10:30am Selinger Family+



Christmas 2018

Dear Friends and Alumni of St. Aloysius School,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of you!

We have much to be grateful for this time of year at St. Al's school and church: we have an outstanding faculty and staff; our academic programs are top-notch; we are able to meet the ministerial needs of our parishioners; we were able to install a new boiler in the church; and address other needs around the campus. Yes, we are blessed in so many ways.

As we enjoy the festivities of this Holiday Season, I would like to invite you to remember St. Aloysius School in your Christmas gift giving. This year we have had some other unforeseen expenses that have caused a fiscal shortcoming in our budget. We need the help of the St. Aloysius community to overcome these unexpected expenses. Your gift will help maintain the caliber of school which we have come to enjoy and help provide for the academic needs of all our students.

As is true every year, we depend on God moving in the hearts of His people to help us to be financially prepared for the coming New Year. Truly, God gave his only Son who was born as one of us and died for the sake of each of us; so that we might attain eternal life. Such was God's sacrificial gift to us. Might God be moving your heart to make a sacrificial gift to St. Al's School Annual Fund this year? I hope and pray so!

Historically, you know, St. Al's community of faith pulls together when there is a need, especially a need for our children. Please join us by offering a gift of praise and sacrifice for the needs of our students. This year we need to raise \$20,000.00 for our School's Annual Fund.

Thank you so much for your kind generosity in helping St. Al's with your gift – no amount is too small. Please know that our students pray for all of their benefactors at weekly Mass and daily in their classrooms.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Clint, O.P." with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Fr. Clinton P. Honkomp, O.P.

Pastor

Catholic Standard Time

9am Sunday, December 9th

Which Messiah?

Old Testament Expectations for Christ



9am Sunday, December 16th

But I Already Got A Divorce?!

Annulments & Marriage as Sacrament