

Our Lady of the Holy Cross, St. Augustine, St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist and St. Matthew, the Apostle

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023

OLHC



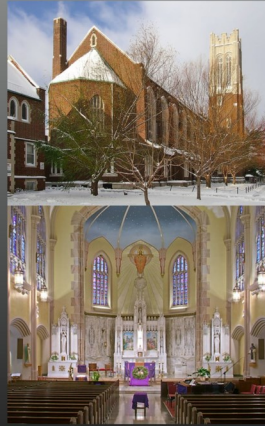
Our Lady of the Holy Cross

SA



St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist
St. Augustine

SEMJB



St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist

SMA



St. Matthew, the Apostle

Parish Staff

Parochial Administrator: Father Scott Scheiderer
scottscheiderer@archstl.org

Associate Pastor: Father Arthur Cavitt
cavitt@lwangacenter.org

Priest in Residence: Father Chris Adinuba

Deacon: Edward Grot peter

Business Manager: Vivian Fox

Secretaries & Child Safety Coordinators:

Lynda Brand - lb9853@swbell.net

Michele Brown - st.augustine.cc@gmail.com

Yvonne Ward - stmatthews@sbcglobal.net

Music Ministers

Judith Jackson - Jujacardinal137@gmail.com

Simeon Layne - Simeon.a.layne.jr@gmail.com

Michelle Williams - Ministermusic@aol.com

New Parish Transition Team

Kenneth Bell	Barb Johnson
Stephen Belt	Simeon Layne, Jr.
Michele Brown	Jan Quinn
Corliss Cox	Desiray Taylor
Dionne Flowers	Brenda Vanderford
Denise Martin Harper	Sandra Wilson

Feel free to contact one of the team members with questions and ideas as we transition to a new parish.

Parish Offices

OLHC - 314-381-0323

www.olhcstl.com

SA - 314-385-1934

www.st.augustine.cc@gmail.com

SEMJB - 314-381-9945

SMA - 314-531-6443

www.stmatthews@sbcglobal.net

LIVE STREAM - in browser or You Tube :

[@olhc-sa-semjb-smasearch](https://www.youtube.com/@olhc-sa-semjb-smasearch)



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 AM, St Matthew, the Apostle Church

Monday: 9:00 AM, St. Louis Catholic Academy

Tues., Wed., Thur.: 12:00 PM, St. Augustine Church

Saturday: 4:00 PM, St. Matthew, the Apostle Church

RECONCILIATION

One (1) hour before Mass and by Appointment

Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace! Last Sunday, December 17th, marked the beginning of **a time of intense preparation for the coming of our Lord at Christmas**. These solemn days of the Advent season, which extend to this Sunday, December 24th, are days set apart where we are called to reflect more deeply in anticipation of the mystery of our Lord's Nativity. In our daily Gospel throughout this "pre-Christmas" octave (eight days of preparation before the great feast), we hear from the Infancy Narratives of both the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 1:1-25) and Luke (Luke 1:1-79) and follow closely the examples Mary and Joseph in their preparation for the coming of their Son. **What exemplary models we have in our spiritual parents, Mary and Joseph** -Joseph with his humble, diligent obedience to the Lord's prompts and Mary with her pondering heart and trustful surrender!

And now, **this Sunday in our Gospel, we get to hear again the "Annunciation to Mary"** (Luke 1:26-38) and her faith-filled response, her magnificent "*Fiat*" or "yes" to God's plans for her life ("Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" [Luke 1:38]). I pray that we as a parish family can all imitate our Blessed Mother in our response to the Lord's Will for our lives. I am very confident, the more profound our "Yes," the more God's light, peace, and joy will radiate in our community!

As we close out the Advent season and enter into the exalted Christmas season, **may the tender love of the Infant Child infill your heart and mind and abide with you always!** Know that you, your loved ones, and your intentions will be prayed for in a special way as I go to altar in celebration of our Lord's Nativity. Merry Christmas! Glory to God in the highest!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Scott Scheiderer

Parochial Administrator of OLHC, SA, SEMJB, and SMA

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Our Christmas Season begins this weekend with the Vigil Mass of the Nativity of the Lord, here at St. Matthew, the Apostle at 4:00 p.m. The Season continues with music beginning at 11:30 p.m. followed by midnight Mass. At 9:00 a.m. Christmas morning we celebrate the Nativity of the Lord again here at St. Matthew, the Apostle.

Our New Year's Day Mass is at 12:00 noon at Our Lady of the Holy Cross. Please join us; you are always welcome!

Saturday Vigil, December 23**4:00 PM**

Ushers: Lynn Woolfolk, Bernard Anthony, Barbara Morrow, Kenneth Bell

Lector: Francis Harris-Brooks

Acolyte: Michael Williams

Sunday, December 24**8:00 AM**

Ushers: Luci Rucker, Kim Reid

Lector: Kim Reid

Acolyte: Shirley Robinson

10:00 AM

Ushers: Bernard Anthony, Brenda Busby, Kim James Spain, Robbie Sanders, Tonya Wade, Lynn Woolfolk

Lector: Stephen Byes

Acolyte: Venus Spain-Walker, Pam Mason

EMHC: Margaret McCabe (Choir), Myles McCabe (Main)

Advent Candle Attendant: Demetri Taylor

Announcer: Brenda Vanderford

4:00 PM - Christmas Vigil

Ushers: Lynn Woolfolk

Lector: Andrea Roberts

Acolyte: Michael Williams, Kim Reid

EMHC: If needed, see Fr. Scott before Mass

Monday, December 25

12:00 AM - Midnight (begins at 11:30 pm with music)

Ushers: Ken Bell, Kim James Spain, Tonya Wade, Matthew Stuhlman

Lector: Marie Graham

Acolyte: Venus Spain, Sam Wade

9:00 AM - The Nativity of the Lord

Ushers: Kim Spain, Lynn Woolfolk

Lector: Jane Brown

Acolyte: Kim Reid

EMHC: Kim Reid (If needed, see Fr. Scott before Mass)

Saturday Vigil, December 30**4:00 PM**

Ushers: Lynn Woolfolk, Bernard Anthony, Barbara Marrow

Lector: Michelle Simmons

Acolyte: Michael Williams

Sunday, December 31**8:00 AM**

Ushers: Luci Rucker, Kim Reid

Lector: Leslie House

Acolyte: Abraham Lopez

EMHC: Shirley Robinson

10:00 AM

Ushers: Claire Hay

Lector: Carl "CJ" Summers

Acolyte: Michael Williams, Roger dreka Davis, Sam Wade

EMHC: Jane Brown (Choir), Terry Grotpetter (Main)

Announcer: Simeon Layne

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prayer

All powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our hearts to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming.

Amen.

Scripture Readings
December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Reading I

Second Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Reading II

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

December 25th - 31st 2023

Monday (Midnight): Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-23, 13; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Monday (Christmas Day): Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18

Tuesday: Acts of the Apostles 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6 & 8ab, 16bc & 17; Matthew 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; John 20:1a & 2-8

Thursday: 1 John 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8; Matthew 2:13-18

Friday: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Luke 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Luke 2:36-40

Sunday: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3; Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Luke 2:22-40

December Birthdays & Anniversary

Happy Birthday

&

Anniversary

to all who celebrate this month

HOMEBOUND AND SICK
Remember in your prayers all the
Homebound and Sick of our parish:

Judith Banks, Violet Blackmon, William Bonnett, Carrie Brown, Grace Brown, Ruby Carter, Mariah Casey, Roger Casey, Harold Cole, Senola Collier, George Cross, Bernice Culmore, Lily Davis, Rhonda Dorsey, Ethel Franklin, Naomi Gardner, Leodia Gooch, Kenneth Herndon, Gus Hinton, Barbara Ingram, Ricki Kibby, Stanley King, Janie Kirkland, Finley Martin, Elizabeth McFarland, Wendell Scales, Shirley Shelton, Sandra Simmons, Frances Simms, Crystal Small, Doris Smith, Laverna Spinks, Veronica Whalum, Harriett White, Lillian Whitley, Mattie Williams, Eugenia Young



In Loving Memory



Remember all of our departed loved ones.

In my Father's house are many rooms.

If it were not so, would I have told you that I will go to prepare a place for you? John 14:2

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR
DECEMBER 24 thru DECEMBER 30**

Sunday, December 24

8:00 a.m. *People of the Parish*

10:00 a.m. *Constance Scheiderer*

4:00 p.m. *Patricia McDerby*

Monday, December 25

12:00 a.m. *People of the Parish*

9:00 a.m. *Jerry Hall*

Tuesday, December 26

12:00 p.m. *Dennis Timme*

Wednesday, December 27

12:00 p.m. *Arsenia Kincade*

Thursday, December 28

12:00 p.m. *Francois Steele*

Saturday, December 30

4:00 p.m. *Deborah Washington*



Offertory

December 16th & 17th

Our Lady of the Holy Cross

\$ 3,570.00 - General Fund

\$ 199.70 - Online Giving

St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist

\$ 2,088.00 - General Fund

\$ 0.00 - Online Giving

St. Augustine

\$ 3,991.00 - General Fund

\$ 0.00 - Online Giving

St. Matthew, the Apostle

\$ 7,316.15 - General Fund

\$ 275.00 - Online Giving

Jesus make our hearts like yours



PARISH NEWS*Prayer to St. Michael*

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into Hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

A note from our Young Adult Ministry, we want to thank all who came out to support our Breakfast with Santa last Sunday afternoon. A good time was had by all. THANK YOU for your support. See you next year.



Our Ladies Auxiliary expresses their thanks to all who participated in the Ladies Auxiliary Full Turkey Dinner raffle. This year's winner, who was pulled after 10:00 a.m. Mass on December 17, is Angela Huff. Congratulations, Angela, on winning the Turkey Dinner for 20. It was delivered to Angela last Sunday.

**BIBLE STUDY RESUMES**

As we continue our transition through the All Things New process, the Center continues to lift each of you and our parishes in prayer. As part of our adaptation, the Center's Bible Study resumed with our exploration of and prayer with "The Book of Isaiah" on **November 29 at 1:00 p.m.**, St. Nicholas Church site, located at 701 N. 18th St., St. Louis, MO 63103. Noon Mass precedes the session. You are welcome to join us for the liturgy. Please bring a Bible, New American Edition preferred. There is no charge for the sessions. Free will offerings are welcome. If additional information is needed, please call the St. Nicholas phone line at 314-231-2860, ex. 24.

**FORMATION OF PARISH LADIES' COUNCIL**

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Ladies' Council for our parish, please contact Gladys Mansfield, 314-361-0464, or Jane Brown, 314-869-7442. This is a great opportunity to come together, meet other parishioners and serve.

FORMATION OF PARISH MEN'S COUNCIL**ATTENTION—All Men of the Parishes!**

If you are interested in forming a Men's Club of the combined parishes, please contact Gerron Houston, (314) 397-3509, or email HoustonGerron@gmail.com. This would be a great opportunity to get to know our parish family, each other and serve our church and community.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Do you know someone that is interested in joining the Catholic Church? Or, someone baptized who is not confirmed or who has never received communion?

Classes have begun. We meet after mass at St. Matthew, the Apostle rectory. It's not too late to join us.

Are you called to liturgical

ministry? If you are interested in serving as a Greeter/Usher, Lector, Extraordinary Minister of Holy

Communion or Acolyte, paper forms are available in the back of Church OR go to:

<https://www.osvhub.com/stmatthew-the-apostle-church/forms/liturgical-minister-volunteer-contact-form> to fill out the online form. For questions contact Kim Reid at sacredheart4kim@gmail.com. Training is being offered.

**Please Update Your Parishioner Information**

We are asking all parishioners to please update your contact information by completing the **form in the pew**, calling the parish office, visit the website or emailing:

St. Matthews: Yvonne at stmatthews@sbcglobal.net

St. Augustine: Michele at st.augustine.cc.stl@gmail.com

St. Elizabeth: Lynda at lb9853@swbell.net

Our Lady of the Holy Cross: Lynda at lb9853@swbell.net

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the month of December please send all bulletin announcements to:

st.augustine.cc.stl@gmail.com

Announcements must be emailed no later than **close of business on Tuesdays.**



December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

NEWS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE COMMUNITY



The final Advent candle marks the beginning of the final week before Christmas and is a time of prayer. It is also called the **Angel's Candle** and

is a white candle representing purity, peace, and justice brought to the world by Christ. The white candle also reminds us that Christ is sinless and pure.

ADVENT WREATH

You can hang an Advent wreath on your door or make it the centerpiece of your dinner table.

Light each candle on the appropriate Sunday. A white candle in the middle of the wreath is lit on Christmas Day and represents the light Jesus brings to us. Place an Advent wreath in your home as a way to keep Christ at the center of Christmas celebrations. Lighting the Christmas Advent candles also offers an opportunity to teach children about Christ.



To Him who can strengthen you, according to the Gospel and proclamation of Jesus Christ, to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever.

Amen.
(Romans 16:25-27)



**SAVE THE DATE!
Dr. Martin Luther King
Commemoration**

48th Annual Archdiocesan Celebration on the Holiday Weekend Commemorating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., **Sunday January 14, 2024, at 2:30 PM**, at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. This is inclusive of Mass and the 17th Annual Dr. MLK, Jr. Model of Justice Awards. Mark your calendar!



O come, O come, Emmanuel.



**ARE YOU OR ANYONE
YOU KNOW
IN NEED
OF RECEIVING ANY
SACRAMENT(S)?**



If anyone has sacramental needs (Baptism, First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)), please contact the parish office.

† **First Reconciliation (Confession)/First Eucharist (Communion):**

Any child or youth in the second grade or older who has been baptized: There will be a **mandatory orientation meeting** for parents (only) of children preparing to receive First Holy Communion (Eucharist) this year.

† **Confirmation:**

Any youth who has been baptized and must be in grades 7th-12th and at least 12 years of age at the time of the administration of the Sacrament. All candidates and their families must attend an information session prior to enrollment.

† **All other sacramental needs:** Contact the parish office.

Sacramental Preparation: If you or anyone you know is in need of **any** sacrament, please contact the parish office immediately. It will soon be too late to enroll in many of these sessions this school year.

If you have any questions contact the parish office at 314-531-6443.



On this joyous and sacred day of Christmas, we gather together to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we come together in prayer and reflection, let us be filled with the true meaning and spirit of this holy season.

Christmas is a time of hope, love, and renewal. It is a time when we remember the incredible gift that God has bestowed upon us – the gift of His Son, who came to bring salvation and eternal life. In the humble manger, we find the embodiment of God's love for humanity, a love so profound that it transcends time and space.

As we exchange gifts and share festive meals with our loved ones, let us also remember those who are less fortunate. Christmas is an invitation for us to extend our hands and hearts to those in need, embodying the selfless love and compassion that Jesus taught us.

During this special season, may we find solace and comfort in the presence of our faith community. Let us come together to worship, sing carols, and offer prayers of gratitude for the blessings in our lives. Together, we can experience the true joy of Christmas and strengthen our bonds of fellowship and unity.

As we reflect on the miracle of Christ's birth, let us also look ahead with hope and anticipation. May the message of Christmas inspire us to be beacons of light in a world that often feels dark and uncertain. May our actions and words be a reflection of God's love, spreading kindness and compassion to all those we encounter.

On behalf of the entire church community, we extend our warmest wishes for a blessed and Merry Christmas. May the peace and joy of this season fill your hearts and homes, and may the light of Christ guide you throughout the coming year.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

St. Vincent DePaul Society	8115 Church Rd. 1371 Hamilton Ave. 2715 North Sarah Street 4746 Carter Ave.	314-381-0323 314-289-6101 ext 1134 314-289-6101 ext 1169 314-932-7222
Baden Community Vegetable Garden	8115 Church Rd.	314-825-1603
Father Bob's Outreach	1371 Hamilton Ave.	314-385-1934
St. Augustine Wellston Center	1705 Kenlien Ave.	314-382-7158
Northside Youth & Senior Service Center	4120 Maffitt Ave.	314-531-4161 or 314-531-1937
Northside Community Housing	4067 Lincoln Ave.	314-534-5400
Child & Family Empowerment Center, Inc.	4145 Kennerly Ave.	314-449-1333
Unfailing Love Christian Church-Food Pantry	4068 Maffitt Ave.	314-371-1057
St. Louis Catholic Academy	4720 Carter Ave.	314-389-0401
St. Charles Lwanga Center	4746 Carter Ave.	314-231-2860 ext 24



Habitat for Neighborhood Business

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Contact Gladys Smith, Program Administrator, at 314-977-3625.

"Strengthening Neighborhood Businesses"

IN REMEMBRANCE
Patrick W. Rush
Patricia Rush
Barrington Gates
Patricia Crawford
Katherine Brewster
Lena Brewster Kennon
Inez Brewster McClinton

IN LOVING MEMORY	
Mabel Hall	Gregory Hall
Leo Hall	Jarvis Hall
Gail Hall	Mattie Hall
Susie Brewster	Velma Brewster

In Memory of
Clifton and Erna Martin
Alladin & Rezia Martin
William & Augusta Theriot
& All Family Members
Who Have Passed

<p>In Loving Memory of Leroy & Maudesta Gougisha Jerone "Ronnie" Gougisha Janet Gougisha Joshua Johnson</p>	<div></div> <p>In Loving Memory of James & Margaret Bland Theresa Frisch-Gordon</p> <hr/> <p>Beloved Father & Mother and Grandmother</p>	<p><i>In Memory of Mrs. Angela Akunmo (née Ezepue)</i></p> <p><i>May her soul Rest in Peace. Amen</i></p>																
<p><i>In Loving Memory of Stanley & Clayton Rice Ernest & Lucinda Rice John & Mary Briggs Clayton & Althlee Williams Harrison York Smith, II</i></p>	<div></div> <p>Be a member of The Holy Name Society</p> <hr/> <p>Try to attend Daily Mass</p>	<p>In Beloved Memory of Carl Jacob Westfall Carl Lewis Westfall Sophia Alexander Westfall Ann A. Parker William "Beanie" Westfall</p>																
<p>In Memory of Beulah & Walter McPherson Mildred & Barney Simms And Other Family Members</p>	<p><i>Memorialize a loved one In this space</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of Choi S. Handley</p> <p>(wife, mother, daughter, sister)</p>																
<p>In Loving Memory of</p> <p>Ida Collins Lindell Collins Sr. Lindell Collins Jr. Ernest Collins Albert Mason Jr. William Collins Sr. Doris Mason</p>	<p>In Loving Memory of</p> <p>Jannia Fields Vivian Kirksey Henry Frank Clay, Jr. Henrietta Clay</p>	<p>Is Stephens Ministry for you?</p> <p>Contact</p> <p>Teresa Scurlock 314.397.2748 Margaret Ann McCabe 314.609-9285</p>																
<div></div> <p>In Memory of Helena C. Anthony Shawn C. Anthony Lloyd Tilghman Francis Tilghman Theresa Tilghman John O. Tilghman Lloyd (chick) Tilghman</p>	<p>In Loving Memory of</p> <p>Burton & Ruby Woods, Paul & Victoria Powell, George Powell, Willie Paul Powell, Charles "Bobby" Powell, Elenora Ross, Mattie Toney, Elijah "Joe" Turnage, Equellia Woods , Iola Abney</p>	<p><i>Memorialize a loved one In this space</i></p>																
<p>In Memoriam</p> <p>Oliver McCullum Raymond Prisby, Sr. Gretchen McCullum Mary Prisby Holliday Levester McCullum Gladys Prisby-Ross Ruby Williams Raymond Prisby, Jr. Willa Mae McFarley Russell E. Prisby Virginia Ann Saunders Vivian Prisby</p>	<p><i>In loving memory of Thad Hollie, Jr., Esq.</i></p> <p><i>"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always abiding in the word of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."</i></p> <p><i>1 Corinthians 15:58</i></p>																	
<p><u>IN MEMORIAM</u></p> <p>Deceased Members of St. Vincent de Paul Society @ St. Matthew</p> <table><tr><td>Liz Bell</td><td>Leo Glaze</td><td>Mary Hoskins</td><td>Ruth Mitchell</td></tr><tr><td>Beatrice Blackshear</td><td>Flora Hailey</td><td>Lillie Johnson</td><td>Jean Short</td></tr><tr><td>Henry Brown</td><td>Cloteal Harris</td><td>Ernestine Jackson</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Dorothy Cain</td><td>Gwendolyn Harris</td><td>Al & Felecia Leake</td><td></td></tr></table>			Liz Bell	Leo Glaze	Mary Hoskins	Ruth Mitchell	Beatrice Blackshear	Flora Hailey	Lillie Johnson	Jean Short	Henry Brown	Cloteal Harris	Ernestine Jackson		Dorothy Cain	Gwendolyn Harris	Al & Felecia Leake	
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<div></div> <p>Knights of Peter Claver Father Zimmerman Council 150</p> <div></div> <p>Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary St. Matthew Court 150</p> <p>SPREADING EVANGELIZATION SINCE 1909</p> <p>For information contact: Isom Williams, Jr. (Knights) Patricia Hughes (Ladies)</p>	<p>In Memory of</p> <p>Earl Franklin Johnson, Sr. Earl Franklin Johnson, Jr. Marian Fleming John E. Ford, Jr. Ella & Willie Butler Samuel Sheppard Marquez Oliver</p>	<div></div> <p>Be a member of St. Ann Sodality</p> <hr/> <p>Attend Mass regularly Meetings every 3rd Sunday</p>																

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