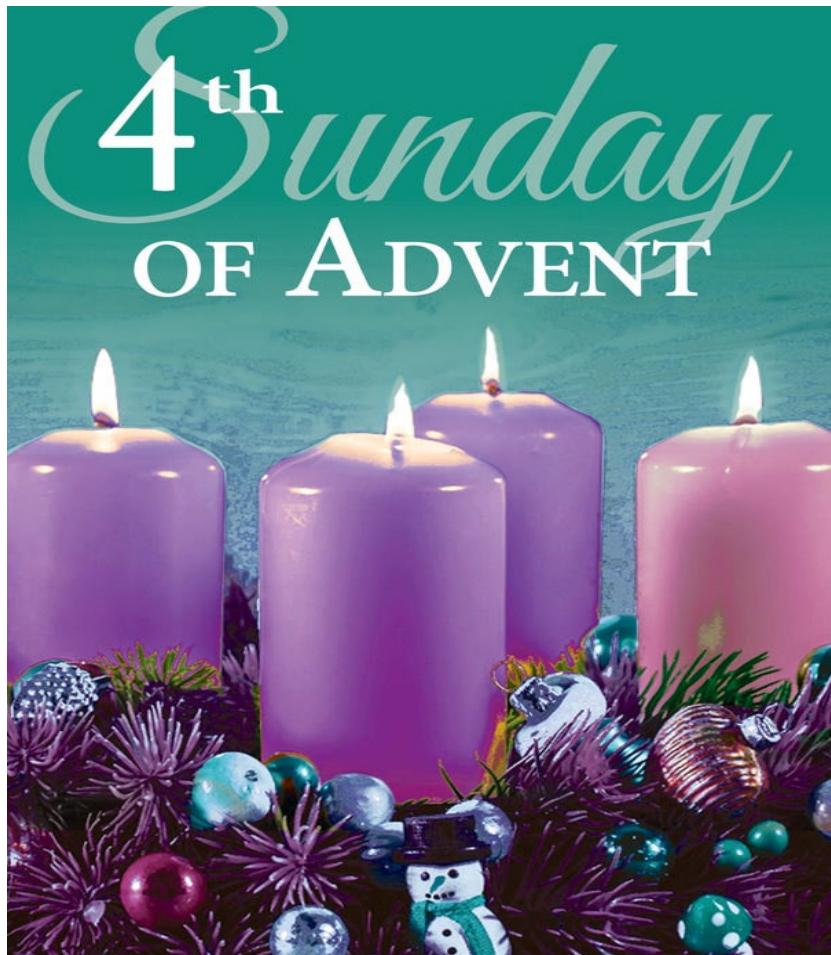


# *Church of the Little Flower*

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent (Christmas Eve)



*"We Remember"  
"We Celebrate"  
"We Believe"*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Eucharistic Community of the Little Flower is to deepen the relationship of its members with God and with each other; to witness to and, therefore, to reveal Jesus Christ and His Good News to the local and wider communities; and to serve as a model of Catholic Christian community valuing the diversity of backgrounds and sharing the gifts of its varied members.*

### **PASTORAL STAFF**

**Pastor** Msgr. Timothy Cronin  
314-961-8400 Ext. 101  
[msgrcronin@gmail.com](mailto:msgrcronin@gmail.com)

**Senior Associate Pastor**  
Rev. Lawrence Herzog  
314-645-1445 Ext. 12  
[lherzog@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:lherzog@littleflowerstl.org)

**Senior Associate Pastor**  
Msgr. William McCumber  
314-961-8400 Ext. 114  
[wmccumber@archstl.org](mailto:wmccumber@archstl.org)

**Parish Office Administrator**  
Ms. Debra Richter  
314-645-1445 Ext. 10  
[drichter@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:drichter@littleflowerstl.org)

**Parish Bookkeeper**  
Ms. Christine Bodus  
314-645-1445 Ext. 11  
[cbodus@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:cbodus@littleflowerstl.org)

**Director of Music & Liturgy**  
Mr. Chuck Chauvin  
314-645-1445 Ext. 16  
[cfchauvin@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:cfchauvin@littleflowerstl.org)

**New Latin Mass** Ms. Regina Morris,  
*Music* [morrisrp@swbell.net](mailto:morrisrp@swbell.net)

**Custodian** Mr. Leonard Goff

### **School Administration**

**Principal** Gloria Openlander  
314-781-4995  
[gopenlander@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:gopenlander@littleflowerstl.org)

**Administrative Asst** Ms. Lisa Chassaing  
314-781-4995  
[lchassaing@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:lchassaing@littleflowerstl.org)

### **CONTACT US**

**St. Vincent de Paul** 314-289-6101 ext.2236

**Parish Office** 1264 Arch Terrace  
Richmond Heights, MO 63117  
phone: 314-645-1445  
fax: 314-645-3258  
[littleflower@little-flower-parish.org](mailto:littleflower@little-flower-parish.org)

**School Office** 1275 Boland Place  
Richmond Heights, MO 63117  
phone: 314-781-4995

**Parish Email** [littleflower@little-flower-parish.org](mailto:littleflower@little-flower-parish.org)

**RCIA Email** [drichter@littleflowerstl.org](mailto:drichter@littleflowerstl.org)

**Office Hours** Monday - Friday,  
6:45am - 2:45pm

**Website** [www.littleflowerstl.org](http://www.littleflowerstl.org)

## MASS & SACRAMENTS

### SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am  
Sunday, Latin Mass: 9:15am  
Liturgy of the Word for Children at 10:30am Mass during the school year

### WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday - Friday: 7:00am  
Saturday: 8:00am  
Holyday Masses: Please check the bulletin for Mass schedule  
Legal Holidays: 9:00am  
School Mass: 8:15am Wednesdays (during school year)

### MORNING PRAYER of the LITURGY of the HOURS:

Monday through Sunday: 7:30am

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 4:00-4:45pm or by appointment and before every Mass

### PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS:

Tuesday: 6:45am (before 7:00am Mass)

### ROSARY:

Saturday: 8:30am

### ADORATION:

Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

### BAPTISMS:

Baptisms are a cause for celebration and may be celebrated with the entire parish at one of the weekend Masses. Parents are asked to complete the preparation sessions prior to scheduling the date for the baptism. Please call the parish office to arrange the sessions. A baptism class will be offered monthly on the second Sunday after the 10:30 Mass.

### MARRIAGES:

Arrangements must be made six months in advance.

## Calendar of Events

MASSES WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED

**Monday December 25**  
**9:15am New Latin Mass-(Carols begin at 8:55am)**  
**10:30am Christmas Day Mass**

**Tuesday December 26**  
7:00am Mass  
10:00am Legion of Mary

**Wednesday December 27**  
7:00am Mass  
8:15am All-School Mass

**Thursday December 28**  
7:00am Mass

**Friday December 29**  
7:00am Mass  
**ADORATION 8:00AM-5:00PM**

**Saturday December 30**  
8:00am Mass  
5:00pm Mass

**Sunday December 31 New Years Eve**  
8:00am Mass  
9:15am New Latin Mass  
10:30am Mass

**Monday January 1 (New Years Day)**  
**9:15am New Latin Mass**  
**10:30am Mass**

## Ministers of Service Dec. 30 & Dec. 31 2023

### MINISTERS OF SERVICE

12/30 5:00pm ~ T. Sullivan K. Thomason L. Armbrecht  
12/31 8:00am ~ A. & H. Reinagel M. Husmann  
12/31 10:30am ~ B. Acosta W. & N. Saykes  
01/01 10:30pm ~ A. Eppert **2 Servers Needed**

### LECTORS

12/30 5:00pm ~ L. Waugh J. Waugh  
12/31 8:00am ~ S. McDonald B. Miller  
12/31 10:30am ~ K. Koeller M. Chauvin  
01/01 10:30am ~ M. Hazelwood M. Seal

### THE GUILD of MOTHER ERNESTINE

#### (Sacristan Helpers)

12/30 5:00pm ~ A. Lewis & P. Williams **Team B**  
12/31 8:00am ~ R. Jacknewitz  
12/31 10:30am ~ C. Flottmann  
01/01 10:30am ~ B. Campeau

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

12/30 5:00pm ~ Volunteer Volunteer  
12/31 8:00am ~ Volunteer Volunteer  
12/31 10:30am ~ Volunteer Volunteer  
01/01 10:30am ~ Volunteer Volunteer

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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The sun's rays light up the world without separating themselves from the sun.

In like manner, the Son of God comes down to earth to enlighten us without separating Himself from the Father with Whom He is entirely one. —St. Anthony of Padua

In today's Gospel it is proclaimed: "Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end'"

We have been preparing ourselves now for this great event. Today we consider the key role of Mary in the work of our salvation. Mary, we might say, made Christmas possible. It is her 'Yes' changed everything. With her acceptance we have the world that is transformed and God has now man. The Incarnation, the assumption of a human nature by God, began at this moment. But it is natural for us to focus rather on the birth of the child some nine months later for it was then that he could be seen, responded to and worshipped. It was at that moment that he began openly to "dwell among us."

In today's First Reading from the Second Book of Samuel, we heard that when David was king over the Jewish people, God had brought peace to his land and God had delivered the nation from all its enemies. Now David wants as if to return favor and build a grand house for God like his palace and shift God's place from that of the tent. Hearing King David's concern for a dwelling place for God, the prophet Nathan told him that God was with him. But God tells David, it is he who builds the house and not the other way around. Instead He will make a dynasty a house to live forever and not a house made by human hands. He makes a promise of the redeemer who will come in the Davidic dynasty and he will establish the new house, the Kingdom.

During today's Second Reading from the letter to the Romans, we heard Saint Paul telling us that God is able to strengthen us in the Spirit of Truth. Through the words of St. Paul, God makes known to us His mysteries. God spiritually disposes the minds of the believers who hear the proclamation of Jesus, namely, Jesus is the one who is revealed by God's mystery that was kept secret for centuries. In other words, St. Paul is saying that we are to listen to and obey the words of Jesus Christ and experience his revelation. For through Jesus, the salvation of mankind has come to all, the Jewish nation and the Gentiles. The Kingdom of God has come on earth as it is in Heaven.

Today's gospel tells us that Mary becomes pregnant even before she came to live with Joseph, her betrothed person. There is the Annunciation scene. God sent an angel called Gabriel to a small town in Galilee called Nazareth. The angel appeared to a virgin called Mary who was engaged to be married to Joseph, a descendant of the house of David. The angel said to Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." Imagine Mary being confused and wondering what kind of greeting she was receiving. Then comes the Angel's response to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." To find "favor with God" means that the grace of God is with you. It also means that God has chosen you. He gives her now the promise of God of a son, the savior and king and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary's choice was no easy one under any human circumstance. A young girl, betrothed but not yet married to Joseph, she was being asked to become pregnant through the Holy Spirit. It was very much like passing a death sentence on herself. Such a thing was punishable by stoning a person to death. But her obedience makes her ready to accept God's will in her life. As we approach the celebration of Christmas, let this become an example for us. We too are called to make a choice and decide for God in freedom to stand by someone in need, to support the helpless ones and to give our best to build the community.

God Bless—Fr. H



"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks  
In all circumstances, for this is the will of God for  
you in Christ Jesus."

(-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That like Mary, our lives, to reflect Christ light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Amen



Dear fellow parishioners, Little Flower Saint Vincent de Paul kindly asks you to help our neighbors in need this Christmas.

In the St. Joseph chapel, you will find the Giving Tree.

Select an ornament from the tree, which you may keep as a gift from us.

We ask for a donation of a gift card from Walmart, Aldi, or Schnucks.

Gift cards may be placed in the offertory basket at mass, or in the rectory mailbox.

We ask for your continued prayers for our neighbors in need.

*"Let us do without hesitation whatever good lies at our hands."*

Blessed Frederick Ozanam, Founder  
SVDP



### Parish Council Nominations

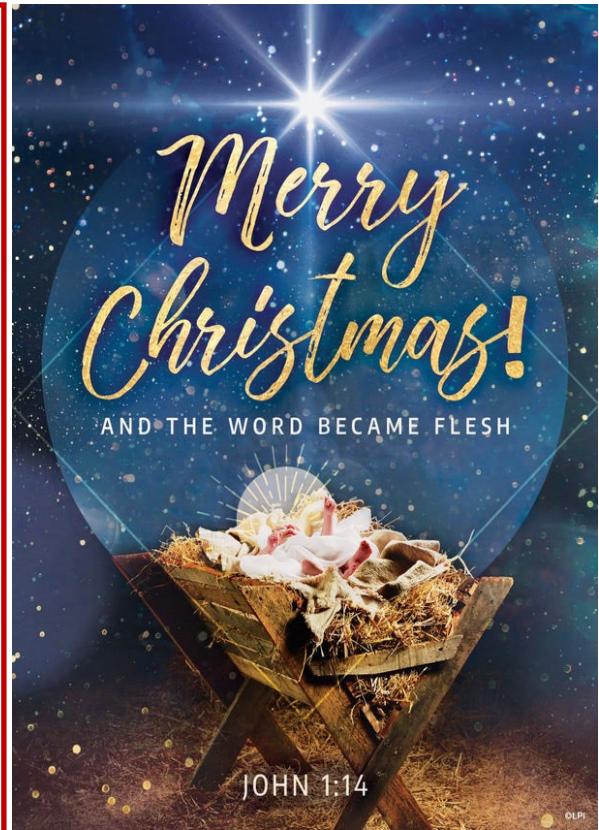
We are accepting nominations for Parish Council. Please consider nominating yourself or a fellow parishioner.

**Parish Council is an advisory committee which assists the Pastor in his leadership of the Parish. The council represents the needs and interests of the entire Parish community .**

**Consider a term on the Parish Council. There is no election for membership. New members are chosen through a lottery system.**

**Membership is open to all registered, active members of Little Flower Parish, age 18 or older.**

**Please call Debbie at the rectory to express your interest or nominate a candidate .**



Seasons come and seasons go but it is always in season to focus on our faith life in Christ Jesus. Covenant Network Catholic radio helps by drawing us into the beautiful spirituality of our Catholic prayers and devotions. Even the current events, seen through a Catholic prism, keep us attentive to the things that matter for our salvation. Tune into KHOJ 1460 AM or listen on the Covenant Network app or anytime at OurCatholicRadio.org.

Christmas Masses  
Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00pm  
Christmas Day at 10:30am  
New Latin Mass at 9:15pm  
New Year's Day-The Solemnity of Mary  
Mass is at 10:30am  
New Latin Mass at 9:15am

**IMPORTANT EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES!**  
Please note these upcoming dates!

**Bulletin for Dec. 31st is Wednesday,  
12/20**



Little Flower  
Catholic School

## A LETTER FROM THE LITTLE FLOWER PRINCIPAL

### Dine-Out Reports

Thank you all who support the Dine-Outs of local restaurants.

Your attendance allows the owner to give back to Little Flower and for us to frequent their businesses.

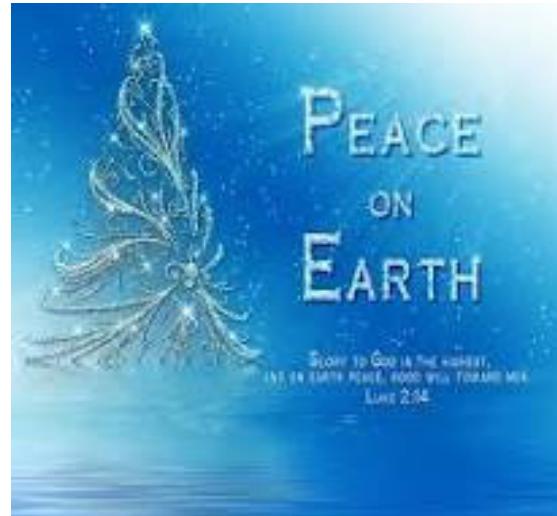
Thank you to everyone who participated in last month's dine out at Michael's Bar and Grill. The owner generously donated \$2,800 to Little Flower. This is 20% of their sales for the entire day for all diners, regardless of their Little Flower affiliation. This is amazing! Please consider patronizing Michael's Bar and Grill in the future and thanking them for their support of Little Flower School.

Mr. Favazza, the owner of Amighettis and Hank's Cheese Cake presented Little Flower with a check at the all school mass on December 8 for \$307.44

Michael's Bar & Grill sent a Little Flower a check for \$2800.00

Total     \$ 3,107.44

A deep appreciation to Andrea Husmann who organizes the Little Flower Dine-Outs. Thank you!



**Gloria Openlander**  
**Principal**  
**Little Flower Catholic School**  
**1275 Boland Place**  
**Richmond Heights, MO 63117**  
**314-781-4995**



Our parish is offering a convenient service for contributions! Online Giving is a web-based application that allows you to start, stop and change your contributions at any time. Please notice that our offering envelopes now have a check box which indicates "I've given online," which you can use to present during offertory at Mass. Online Giving is very easy to use and requires no special knowledge other than how to access the Internet. If you haven't already signed up, then go to our parish website at [www.littleflowerstl.org](http://www.littleflowerstl.org) and select Online Giving or you can register at our parish app. Simply scan with your Smart Device. It will take you to the on-line giving portal of our website.



The Paschal Mystery is the Passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ by which he heals us from sin and enables us to become children of God. Christ's saving action atones for our sins through his sacrificial petition, a divine love. It revokes the offence of all sin and bears the pain and cost of sin in itself. Only a person who is divine, human and innocent could make an effective sacrifice on our behalf.

Source:Evangelium

#### Did you Know?

If you are homebound or know of anyone in the parish who is homebound, and would like to receive Communion please contact the rectory office at 314-645-1445. We will be happy to arrange that.

Also if you are homebound and do not have access to a computer, we would gladly send you a weekly copy of the bulletin. Please let us know what we can do for you by calling the rectory office. 314-645-1445

#### Little Flower on YouTube

Did you know the Little Flower parish is on YouTube? We livestream all of our Masses, Sacred Devotions and Morning Prayer. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel, **Little Flower Parish – Richmond Heights**. Be sure and **LIKE** our videos, and share this information with your family and friends.

## FRIENDS OF BIRTHRIGHT DINK & DROP PICKLEBALL SCRAMBLE

TO BENEFIT BIRTHRIGHT COUNSELING, ST. LOUIS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2024  
6:00pm - 9:00pm

MISSOURI PICKLEBALL CLUB  
747 Gravois Bluffs, Fenton, MO 63026

\$50.00/Player  
\$20.00/Non-player  
\$15.00 Learn to Play Add On

REGISTRATION INCLUDES PICKLEBALL, FOOD & FUN!  
SOCIAL REC & INTERMEDIATE LEVELS



Scan to Register or visit  
<http://friendsofbirthrightsstl.ticketspice.com/dink-drop-pickleball-scramble-2023>



There is a Little Flower parishioner currently looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment within the LF parish area. If you have one for rent or know of someone who does please contact the rectory at 314-645-1445.  
Thank you for your help!

#### Have you heard about the Eucharistic Congress that will be held next year?

It will be in Indianapolis on July 17-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. If you want to attend you need to book now. The tickets are selling fast as are hotels in the area. If you are interested, please contact Jackie Waugh at 314-704-6519 or [jwaugh123@charter.net](mailto:jwaugh123@charter.net). If we have enough people going, we can get a group rate on tickets. But we need to act fast. Thanks for considering this awesome opportunity!

The Rosary Crusade for America and the Church will be prayed every Saturday at 4:30 in the Little Chapel. Whether you attend the 5:00 Mass or just join for the rosary, everyone is invited.



*"A Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory."*

~ St. Padre Pio



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is held in the Little Flower Chapel from 8:00am to 5:00pm every Friday. All are encouraged to come and spend whatever time you are able to in the Divine Presence of God.

For more information and/or if you are able to commit to your own weekly hour of adoration, please contact:  
Margie Curran (645-1709) or Anita Blattenberger (644-4740)

### Interested in answering Jesus' call to serve others? Join The Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The society of St. Vincent de Paul provides clothes, shelter, food, medicine and more -and pays for utilities for people in need throughout the St. Louis region. Our personal, one-on-one approach gives people the help they need for today and helps them to see a better tomorrow. We are a Catholic lay organization, leading men and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering service to the needy and suffering. **Join Us.** See Christ in the face of the poor and to bring the love of God to those who are in material or spiritual need. You'll grow spiritually and make friends. **How to join us?** Call the rectory at 314-645-1445

*In your charity,  
please Pray for*

*the souls of Ursula Hand (wife of Wayne Hand & mother of Liz Gibbs) and Rita Bergtholdt, (mother of Jackie Gibbons) and all the souls of the faithful departed, May they rest in peace...*

*The sick and shut-ins of our parish, especially:*

Amos James Becker	Louise Haynes	David Nathe
Andrew Blum	Adrianna Hubb	Sr. Jo Ann
John Boland	Chris Lewis Hutchcroft	O'Connell, BVM
Maxine Borowiak	Stan James	Lachlan Oddy
Jaxson Boyer	Barb Jones	Kristin Rafferty
Frankie Boyer	Chad Keeven	Christi Rice Blum
Steve Bradshaw	Donald Kenney	Sue Rice
Joanne Buchholz	Mary Kinsley	Ken Roberts
Ellen Carmody	Joanne Kraus	Marguerite
Kathleen Carter	Jack Lally	Scheidegger
Rachelle Chaney	Julie Lally	Tom Schuette
Nicholas Coleman	Marianne Lally	Tony Snider
Katie Crouch Willett	Jim LaMartina	Hollie Soto
Clare Crouch	Patty LaRochelle	Matthew Stuart
Helena Czosnyka	Mary Laws	Gary Underwood
Chandelier Davis	Everleigh Lauber	Miriam Varas
James Davis	Jean Leonhardt	Margaret Verzino
James E. Davis	Sherry Lopez	Charles Volk
Nathan Glore Davis	Greg & Shelley	Bob Warren
Bill Edwards	Lowrey	Billy Wells
Kathryn Fischer	Elizabeth Lyons	Joseph Wheeler
Peter Freundl	Emma Lyons	
Ron Garnier	Peg Mango	
Joyce Griffen	Helen Mango	
<b>Linda Grobelny</b>	Bob McShane	
Beverly Haffner	G. Tracy Mehan	
Mary Ellen Havard	Mary Falk Mehan	

Mass Intentions  
**December 25 (Christmas Day)**  
Michael Fitzhenry  
Margie Meatte

**Tuesday**  
7:00am  
**Wednesday**  
7:00am  
**8:15am**  
7:00am  
**Friday**  
7:00am  
**Saturday**  
8:00am  
5:00pm  
**Sunday**  
8:00am  
9:15am  
10:30am

**December 26**  
Ursula Hand  
**December 27**  
Members of LF Parish  
**No 8:15am Mass this Week**  
**December 28**  
Rita Bergtholdt  
**December 29**  
Rodney Flottmann  
**December 30**  
Richard Doerr  
Nancy Mueller  
**December 31**  
James Feser  
(Sp. Intention) Daniel Burke  
Mary Janet Kinsella

**Sunday 5:00pm**  
**December 24th (Christmas Eve)**  
John Herber

### Readings for the week of December 24, 2023

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: 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 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab,  
16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2  
-8

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-  
18

Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

**PLEASE PRAY for our PARISHIONERS  
and/or LOVED ONES SERVING in the  
UNITED STATES MILITARY**



Allen Conrey  
Mollie Conrey  
Rebecca Conrey  
Blaise Coulter  
Alex Garofalo  
Derek Hirtz  
Brian Kloppenburg  
Justin Kloppenburg  
Alexander LaRochelle  
Ean Eichert

Maurice Muro  
Ashton Piper  
Christopher Wamhoff  
John Weber  
Jonathon Habb  
Dashawn Arrendondo