

THE ORATORY OF SAINTS  
GREGORY & AUGUSTINE



TRADITIO | REVERENTIA | COMMUNITAS

## Welcome to the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine

The Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine is pleased to welcome you. We are an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis faithful to the teachings of the Church and striving to grow as a family of faith through the celebration of the Traditional Latin Mass and other Sacraments.

In the First Book of *The Confessions*, the other great St. Augustine (of Hippo) wrote the following: “Thou hast made us for Thyself and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee.” Whether you are curious about the traditional Latin Mass and interested in exploring its beauty, searching for a parish community where you and your family will feel at home, or seeking rest for your heart, we hope that the Oratory of Saints Gregory and Augustine can provide that respite for you.

Our bulletin serves to provide information about the weekly activities occurring here at the Oratory. Along with our website ([www.stlouislainmass.com](http://www.stlouislainmass.com)), the bulletin is your point of contact with the ever-increasing activities at the Oratory. I hope this will give you some sense of the grace of God, the love of Jesus Christ, and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. I am delighted that God has brought you here! *Oremus pro invicem!*

—The Very Reverend Monsignor C. Eugene Morris, Rector

### MASS AND SACRAMENTS

#### Sunday Masses

- 6:30 am (Low Mass)
- 8:00 am (Low Mass)
- 10:00 am (High Mass)

#### Weekday Masses

- Monday thru Friday: 6:30 am & 12:15 pm
- First Friday: 6:30 pm
- Saturday: 8:15 am

#### Confession

- Sunday: 7:00 -7:45 am; 9:00 am – 10:30 am
- Monday thru Friday: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- First Friday: 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
- Saturday: 7:00 am – 8:00 am

#### Divine Office

- Sunday: Prime @ 7:20 am; Terce @ 9:40 am; Vespers @ 2:30 pm; Compline @ 7 pm
- Monday: Vespers @ 6 pm & Compline @ 7pm
- Tuesday & Thursday: Compline @ 7 pm
- Wednesday: Compline @ 6:30 pm

**Infant Baptism** – Baptisms are normally scheduled on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of the month beginning at 10:00 am. Families expecting newborns and anticipating that they will be baptized here at the Oratory should schedule their baptism at the earliest convenience by contacting the Oratory office.

**Adult Baptism** – If you are interested in becoming Catholic or if you are an adult Catholic not yet confirmed, please contact the Oratory office for more information about adult catechesis.

**Matrimony** – Please contact the Oratory office at least six months prior to the desired date for the rite of marriage. The date is reserved after consultation and confirmation from the Rector of the Oratory.

**Extreme Unction/Visitation of the Sick** – Contact the Oratory to arrange the sacrament either at home or in the hospital.

### STAFF/ORGANIZATIONS

- **Rector:** Msgr. C. Eugene Morris  
[rector@oratorysga.org](mailto:rector@oratorysga.org)
- **Vice-Rector:** Fr. Michael Rennier  
[vicerector@oratorysga.org](mailto:vicerector@oratorysga.org)
- **Deacon:** Deacon Steve Pieper, MD  
[deacon@oratorysga.org](mailto:deacon@oratorysga.org)
- **Administrative Assistant:** Donna Mueller  
[office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org)
- **Facilities Manager:** Ben Schubert  
[facilities@oratorysga.org](mailto:facilities@oratorysga.org)
- **Auxiliary:** Anna Kalinowski  
[auxiliary@oratorysga.org](mailto:auxiliary@oratorysga.org)
- **Oratory Co-Op:**  
[co-op@oratorysga.org](mailto:co-op@oratorysga.org)
- **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD):**  
[ccd@oratorysga.org](mailto:ccd@oratorysga.org)
- **Altar servers:**  
[servers@oratorysga.org](mailto:servers@oratorysga.org)
- **Altar and Rosary Society:**  
[altarandrosary@oratorysga.org](mailto:altarandrosary@oratorysga.org)
- **Knights of Columbus:**  
[kofc17355@oratorysga.org](mailto:kofc17355@oratorysga.org)
- **Troops of Saint George:**  
[tsg@oratorysga.org](mailto:tsg@oratorysga.org)
- **Oratory Schola:**  
[schola@oratorysga.org](mailto:schola@oratorysga.org)
- **Choir:**  
[choir@oratorysga.org](mailto:choir@oratorysga.org)
- **Young Adults:**  
[youngadults@oratorysga.org](mailto:youngadults@oratorysga.org)
- **Oratory Events:**  
[events@oratorysga.org](mailto:events@oratorysga.org)
- **Almonry of Ss. Gregory & Augustine:**  
[almonry@oratorysga.org](mailto:almonry@oratorysga.org)
- **Online Giving:**  
<https://www.osvhub.com/st-louis-latin-mass>

### CONTACT US

314-644-2144 / [stlouislainmass.com](http://stlouislainmass.com)  
7230 Dale Avenue, Richmond Heights, MO 63117

**FROM THE RECTOR**

The Feast of the Holy Family reinforces our faith in the Incarnation and further expands on the implications of God becoming man. The Lord’s presence in the flesh serves not only to reconcile us to the Father but also to restore mankind’s dignity. Consequently, every aspect of human life presents an opportunity to make manifest the glory of God. The human condition and all its aspects no longer need be drudgery and toil. Family life, when it is modeled after that of the Holy Family, opens up opportunities to grow in virtue. Our Collect and Lessons today instruct us that through the virtues of charity, obedience, mutual help, and regard the Holy Family made family life holy and perfect. As always, we are presented the chance/challenge to practice these same virtues in our own families. Moreover, the virtues we develop in our families should be actualized in society and culture. It can be asserted that the dissolution of family life is directly related to the collapse of civility in the current cultural milieu. We take on the life of the Incarnate Word for our own salvation and for the salvation and sanctification of the whole world. Through the intercession of Jesus, Mary and Joseph let us courageously work to redeem family life from the pernicious lies of society and culture. By lives of virtue, let us find joy and peace in our own families, in the family of Holy Mother the Church, and with all our brothers and sisters.

+++++

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sunday, 12 January:**

- Prime @ 7:20 am
- Terce @ 9:40 am
- Coffee Hour @ 11:30 am
- Vespers @ 2:30 pm
- Compline @ 7:00 pm

**Monday, 13 January:**

- Server Training @ 4:30 pm
- Vespers @ 6:00 pm
- Troops of St. George @ 6:30 pm
- Compline @ 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, 14 January:**

- Compline @ 7:00 pm
- Choir practice @ 7:00 pm

**Wednesday, 15 January:**

- Holy Hour @ 5:00 pm
- Compline @ 6:30 pm

**Thursday, 16 January:**

- Compline @ 7:00 pm

**Friday, 17 January:**

- Schickler/Regazzi Rehearsal @ 5:00 pm

**Saturday, 18 January:**

- Archer Baptism @ 9:15 am
- Weissler Baptism @ 10:00 am
- Catechism Class @ 10:00 am (SJR)
- Schickler/Regazzi Wedding @ 12 Noon

+++++

**PILGRIM VIRGIN MARY STATUE 2024/2025**

12/29-01/05 Filla	01/05-01/12 Petrick
01/12-01/19 D’Cunha	01/19-01/26 Schenk
01/26-02/02 Stolarski	02/02-02/09 Henry
02/09-02/16 Santschi	02/16-02/23 Kiser
02/23-03/02 Agnew	03/02-03/09 Buyle
03/09-03/16 Leljedal	03/16-03/23 Grizzle
03/23-03/30 Turntine	03/30-04/06 Haulard

04/06-04/13 Kelly	04/13-04/20 Jones
04/20-04/27 Holman	04/27-05/04 Carapella
05/04-05/11 Cook	05/11-05/18 Hayward
05/18-05/25 Fowler	05/25-06/01 Blum
06/01-06/08 Wisniewski	06/08-06/15 Catalano
06/15-06/22 Kenney	06/22-06/29 Raymond
06/29-07/06 Hayes	07/06-07/13 Schuette
07/13-07/20 Filla	07/20-07/27 Petrick

Drop off and pick up the statue in the vestibule (back of church). Place the statue bag on the floor to left of the Oratory table. To join or to quit the schedule contact Sharon Alexander saalexa@sbcglobal.net

+++++

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, 13 January – *In the Octave of Epiphany***

- 6:30 am: Kevin Murphy
- 12:15 pm: Sherry Tunteri

**Tuesday, 14 January – *St. Hilary***

- 6:30 am: Joseph Andrew Decker (d)
- 12:15 pm: Mark & Manuela Dittmar

**Wednesday, 15 January – *St. Paul, the 1<sup>st</sup> Hermit***

- 6:30 am: Edward G. & Margaret Sweeney (d)
- 12:15 pm: Ann Louis Morris-Kenney (d)

**Thursday, 16 January – *St. Marcellus I***

- 6:30 am: Nicholas Kalinowski
- 12:15 pm: Matthew Politsch

**Friday, 17 January – *St. Anthony, Abbot***

- 6:30 am: Br. Peter Mary of the Cross
- 12:15 pm: Anthony & Mary Otto (d)

**Saturday, 18 January – *Chair of St. Peter at Rome***

- 8:15 am: Maggie Weber

**Sunday, 19 January – *2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany***

- 6:30 am: Pro Populo
- 8:00 am: Cheryl Stricker (d)
- 10:00 am: Ann Louis Morris-Kenney (d)

+++++

***Our Lady of Walsingham, intercede for us who have recourse to thee!  
Ss. Gregory and Augustine, pray for us!***

**A MESSAGE FROM MSGR. MORRIS**

I want to take this opportunity to let the faithful of the Oratory know of some health issues I have. In the early Fall of 2024, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It has been caught early enough that no symptoms were present, but blood work revealed the cancer. I have undergone a series of tests to determine the best course moving forward and that decision involves surgery. The surgery is scheduled for 30 January 2025 and will require an overnight stay. I will then spend the next several weeks in recovery. I am hoping that I will be recovered well enough by Ash Wednesday which is 5 March 2025. I am grateful to both Fr. Rennie and Fr. Linus who will maintain the liturgical schedule for the Oratory as I will be unable to leave the rectory during my convalescence. The doctors consulted are confident of a full recovery and I am at peace with all that has transpired. There is no cause for anxiety or worry as we trust in the Lord's providence. Please pray for me and for those doctors and nurses involved in my surgery. Know that during my recovery you will remain in my daily prayers. Let us always have recourse to Our Lady of Walsingham and our patrons, Ss. Gregory and Augustine!

+++++

**EPIPHANY WATER, SALT, AND CHALK 2025**

Epiphany water, salt and chalk have been blessed and are available to the faithful for as long as it remains. Please only take two of the water bottles so that everyone has an opportunity to have Epiphany Water. Also, you are free to use your own containers for Epiphany water. All of the blessed water will be available until we run out.

+++++

**2025 CALENDARS**

The calendars for 2025 for the Oratory Community have arrived. This year's calendar comes from the Transalpine Redemptorists, a community of traditional monks rooted in the Redemptorists charism who practice both the contemplative and active life. Their motherhouse is in Scotland and they have recently founded a house in Montana.

You are kindly asked to initially take one calendar per household. Once everyone has had a chance to pick up a calendar, there should be more available in late January for those who need another one. Thank you!

+++++

**LOST and FOUND**

There are quite a few missals in the lost and found, as well as other items, and more have been added in the past few weeks. Please, in your charity, check the lost and found for any of your belongings as **we will empty it (missals and all) on Monday, 13 January.**

+++++

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2025**

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Trivia Night on 22 February 2025 to raise money for the council in order to perform more charitable works for the community and to support the Oratory. Be on the lookout for an email in the coming weeks to secure your table! If you would like to

sponsor a round or otherwise help with the trivia night, please email [kofc17355@oratorysga.org](mailto:kofc17355@oratorysga.org).

+++++

**LATIN COURSE**

The Cantores Sancti Ludovici and other Latin instructors are offering another 8-week course in Ecclesiastical (Catholic) Latin designed especially for the laity. The dates are as follows: February 1, 8, 15, 22 AND March 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 7:00am-8:00am in the St. Joseph Room. As with the previous course, the meetings will be largely stand-alone, so it is not necessary to attend them all. While integrating basic Latin grammar and syntax, this course is primarily intended to increase the devotion and piety of the faithful by offering glimpses of the rich theology and history contained in the prayers of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Divine Office, and other Catholic prayers in their original language. There will be a special focus on Holy Week texts [let's make Holy Week even better!].

This course is free, but RSVP registration is requested to [schola@oratorysga.org](mailto:schola@oratorysga.org). Students must be 12 years of age or older. There is no required textbook, but a list of helpful books will be provided to registrants. We encourage you to join us to learn more about our deep Roman Catholic heritage!

+++++

**GIVING TUESDAY 2024 – THANK YOU!**

Our Giving Tuesday Campaign concluded with a total of \$41,310. This exceeds our goal of \$40k! Thank you to our 84 generous donors! Be sure to stop by the Nativity scene in the Marian transept this Christmas to see some of the fruits of your donations: several new figures added to the set and a custom-build stable. Also keep an eye out for new vestments at Solemn Masses later this year and improvements to the baptistry. All made possible by the great generosity of our donors. May God reward you.

+++++

**MEN'S CONFERENCE (FEBRUARY 2025)**

Catholic Men for Christ: Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding its annual conference on **Saturday, 15 February 2025**. The conference begins at 8:45 am and concludes at 4:00 pm and is being held at the Si Commons on the campus of St. Louis University High School. For more information please visit: [catholicmenforchrist.org](http://catholicmenforchrist.org).

+++++

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (MARCH 2025)**

Catholic Women for Christ: Archdiocese of St. Louis is holding its annual conference on **Saturday, 8 March 2025**. The conference begins at 8:45 am and concludes at 4:00 pm and is being held at the Si Commons on the campus of St. Louis University High School. For more information please visit: [catholicwomenforchrist.org](http://catholicwomenforchrist.org).

+++++

**LIGHT WEIGH CATHOLIC WEIGHT-LOSS GROUP**

Light Weigh Catholic Weight-loss Group will be meeting at St. Raymond- St. Elizabeth Catholic Parish, 1421 S. Sappington Rd. Crestwood, MO. in January.

Weight-loss, Saints, Bible Study, Friendship, Spiritual Healing & Prayers! Transformations happen. Connect to the power of God and the group today.

For more information about the program we are using, go to [www.lightweigh.com](http://www.lightweigh.com) (<http://www.lightweigh.com/>).

If interested, please contact group leader Kathy Harkins at (314) 443-7801 or [kathyharkins@charter.net](mailto:kathyharkins@charter.net); or Pam Olimpio at [pcatherine@att.net](mailto:pcatherine@att.net).

\*\*\*\*\*

**CATECHESIS ON CONFESSION**

The beginning of the new calendar is an opportune time to offer a few words on the nature of our confessions. Particularly that when we present ourselves for confession, it is after a complete examination of conscience striving for a full and integral confession aware of our sins and based not on emotion only. So too, those who make frequent confession (which is encouraged) should examine their consciences for the sin of presumption.

*The Catechism of the Council of Trent* provides a thorough and complete explication of the Sacrament of Penance. I want to draw particular attention to the exhortation that confession should be complete and entire. The Church teaches us that we are responsible for confessing all of our mortal sins in both number (how often) and kind (nature of the sin itself). As such when we come for confession, we should not only present those sins that are on our hearts or that have easily come to mind but also confess all sins we can recall after a thorough examination of conscience.

I encourage everyone to access a thorough and complete guide for examining your conscience. This will assist you in recalling your serious sins as well as venial sins which also work against growing in holiness. A good examination of conscience will also provide the requisite detachment from the emotions that are often associated with the sins for which we are guilty. There are situations where we might feel bad about a particular interaction, situation, but no sin was involved and then there are times when we have grown so accustomed to our sins that we no longer feel guilt about them and fail to confess them. Prepare well for the sacrament so that you can also use well the graces received.

\*\*\*\*\*

**YEAR-END UPDATES**

If you are currently enrolled in online giving, there is no need to do anything to continue your contributions for 2025. You can make modifications to your account at any time; if you do nothing, your current elections will continue. If you are still receiving envelopes and you are enrolled in online giving, please email Donna ([office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org)) to have the envelopes discontinued ~ it helps the Oratory save costs. If you are not enrolled in online giving...you can join at any time! All contributions must be made by Tuesday, 31 December in order to be included in your 2024 contribution statement. Thank you!

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENTS**

Annual Giving statements will be available beginning Sunday, 19 January 2025. You will find your statement in the boxes on the back table in the Church vestibule. Please

notify the office (via email please) immediately if any changes to your contact information need to be made regarding your name or address. This is also an opportunity to notify the office with any changes to phone number, cell number or email address. Again, please make every effort to notify the office of these changes through email. Our email address [office@oratorysga.org](mailto:office@oratorysga.org). In advance thank you for your generosity and attentiveness to these details.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DRINK BREVIARY COFFEE & SUPPORT THE ORATORY**

Breviary Coffee is for sale at all coffee hours. Our coffee is locally roasted specifically for us in small batches from a single-origin, fair trade source and makes for great gifts for family and friends. 100% of the profits go to support the Oratory and fund our coffee hours. If you would like to purchase a 1-lb bag, the cost is \$16 and our coffee hour volunteers will be happy to assist you with the purchase. We can sell both ground and whole-bean. The roast is a medium-light roast and the cup of coffee that results is well-balanced and easy to drink, with notes of citrus but still sweet with a clean taste.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEDDING BANNS**

There is a promise of marriage between:

**III ~ Vincent Rigazzi & Mia Schickler**

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS - BOOKS**

Please accept a copy of "The Secret of the Holy Face" by Fr. Lawrence Carney as a donation to all parishioners available in the vestibule of the Church today. Given the course of events occurring in our country and within the Church, especially with regard to the current growth of Communism, it is recommended that Catholics understand and pray the Holy Face Devotion. This powerful devotion was given to mankind by our Lord and evolved as a weapon to combat the evils of Communism when it first appeared. Though the devotion became less popular, primarily after Vatican II, many Catholics now believe there is an urgent and renewed need for this prayerful exercise given its promises.

Numerous miracles are associated with this devotion which has the full approval of the Catholic Church. In 1843 the Lord spoke these words Sr. Marie de Saint Pierre, a Carmelite nun, in Tours:

*"The earth is covered with crimes. The violation of the first three Commandments of God has irritated My Father. The Holy Name of God blasphemed, and the Holy Day of the Lord profaned, filling up the measure of iniquities. These sins have risen into the throne of God and provoked his wrath which will soon burst forth if justice be not appeased. At no time have these crimes reached such a pitch."*

In 1845, the Reparative Mystery of the Holy Face was revealed to Sister Saint-Pierre as the Lord stated: "I seek Veronicas to wipe and venerate My Holy Face which has few adorers... and by My Holy Face, you will work many miracles."

The Lord gave Sister Saint-Pierre the Golden Arrow prayer as special reparation for blasphemy. She then prayed the

rosary asking Our Lady's intercession in helping her to get the Lord's message to others. Shortly thereafter Mary's apparition at La Salette followed which affirmed the Lord's words to Sister Saint-Pierre, "The Church will be in eclipse."

The revelations to Sister Saint Pierre are also at the foundation of Our Lady's warning at Fatima, regarding the spread of atheistic errors of secular humanism, Socialism, and religious suppression contained in Communism and of revolutionary men.

Please consider studying and praying the Holy Face Devotion for our country and for Holy Mother Church in these challenging times.

+++++

**BLESSED ITEMS**

If you wish to have items blessed, please drop them off at the rectory (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm) and include your name and telephone number. Please make sure all items are clearly marked. Once Msgr. Morris or Fr. Rennier have blessed the items Donna Mueller, Administrative Assistant to the Rector, will call you to let you know the items are ready for pick up (from the rectory office, Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm). **Please drop off/pick up items at the front door on Dale Avenue, across from the field parking lot.**

+++++

**BAPTISMS (October-December 2024)**

*(In alphabetical order)*

- Clara Brigid Corona (Cameron & Miranda)*
- Louis Patrick Corona (Cameron & Miranda)*
- Lucille Simone Marie Fowler (Jacob & Teresa)*
- Patrick Andrew Gibbons (John Thomas & Grace)*
- Jane Adeline Henzler (Philip & Laura)*
- Margaret Rose Holmes (Charles & Emily)*
- Evalyn Rosemarie Jones (Gabriel & Sarah)*
- Michael Joseph King (Ryan & Ashley)*
- Zelie Elizabeth Leljedal (Jonathan & Caryn)*
- James Xavier McCurren (Mitchell & Emily)*
- Joseph Barrett Paske (Joseph & Carrie)*

+++++

**NEW FAMILIES for DECEMBER (alphabetical order)**

A warm welcome to our new parishioners!

- Bill Diepenbrock
- The Dulatt Family ~ Patrick & Lori
- Adam Gordon
- The King Family ~ Ryan & Ashley, Patrick, and Michael
- The McKenzie Family ~ Clark & Linda, Kristin, Erin, and Ryan
- Rommel Romero

+++++

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

In your charity, please pray for the following members of the Oratory who are ill: Emily Brex; Damien Bruening, son of Aurora Miller; Jeanmarie DeCoster; Mary Gleckler, mother of Cathy Saccente and Mary Nelson; Hannah Green, daughter of Nicholas & Julie Green; Lena Henry, daughter of Toni & Mickey Henry; Shane Kiser, husband of Maggie Kiser; James Frances Mooney, father of Dr. Joseph Mooney; Michael Norfleet, son of Marsha Norfleet; Elizabeth Ryan; Patrick Schneider; Leah & Sylvester Soldinie; Lara Trudell, daughter of Sharon and Jim Alexander; and Renee Weidner.

+++++

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

- Leona May Auer, mother of Keith Auer
- Elizabeth Berwin, cousin of David O’Gorman
- Rev. John Deken, brother of Janet Deken, Joan Pisoni, and Beth Stolarski
- Anthony DeStefano, uncle of Emily Lund
- Robert Milton Folle, father of Dottie Schwartz
- Kathleen Graham, mother of David Graham
- Sharon Koenig, sister of Dottie Schwartz
- Jeannette Mailloux, grandmother of Danielle Daub
- Robert Michael Marcos, step-father of Mary Auer
- Thomas McClay, father of Danielle Daub
- Andrew Pumphrey, brother of Katie Keys
- Gerald Saykes, husband of Karen Saykes
- Louis Schubert, father of Ben Schubert
- Thomas Schuette, brother of Robert Schuette

+++++

**USHERS’ SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, 12 January**

- 6:30 am** Chris Bauman\*, Ben Schubert
- 8:00 am** Terry Conway\*, Jeff Martin, Ken Catalano, Sam Ashlock
- 10:00 am** Patrick Kelly\*, Gabe Jones, Jesse Hermann, Mike McMahan

**Sunday, 19 January**

- 6:30 am** Bill Saccente\*, Evan Adair
- 8:00 am** Jeff Martin\*, Sam Ashlock, Ken Catalano, Greg Rheinheimer
- 10:00 am** Gabe Jones\*, Jesse Hermann, Charlie Raymond, Joe Gassiraro

**Sunday, 26 January**

- 6:30 am** Jim Alexander\*, Chris Bauman
- 8:00 am** Sam Ashlock\*, Greg Rheinheimer, Michael Nelson, Kenny Buyle
- 10:00 am** Jesse Hermann\*, Charlie Raymond, Joe Gassiraro, Tom Gates

**Sunday, 2 February**

- 6:30 am** Bill Saccente\*, Ben Schubert
- 8:00 am** Greg Rheinheimer\*, Michael Nelson, Kenny Buyle, Kip Babington
- 10:00 am** Joe Gassiraro\*, Tom Gates, John Simmons, Mark Scheer

+ Altar Server Schedule: January - February 2025 +

Date	Time	MC at High Mass / Acolyte at Low Mass	Thurifer	Acolyte 1	Acolyte 2
12 January 2025	6:30 am	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00 am	Joseph Blum			
	10:00 am	Sebastian Petrick	Castor Armesto	Paul Keys	George Blaxton
19 January 2025	6:30 am	Jack Ryan			
	8:00 am	Michael Rheinheimer			
	10:00 am	Paul Thomas Blaxton	John Morgan	Thomas Koschmeder	Jude Kelly
26 January 2025	6:30 am	Michael Norfleet			
	8:00 am	Castor Armesto			
	10:00 am	Philip Petrick	Peter Blum	Anthony Green	Benedict Armesto
2 February 2025	6:30 am	Jack Ryan			
	8:00 am	Benedict Armesto			
	10:00 am	Michael Rheinheimer	Avery Blaxton	Kolbe Grizzle	Leo Grizzle

+++++

**WELLSPRING OF TRADITION**

The intense watching and waiting for the coming of our Salvation during the season of Advent, the ‘time of the coming,’ reaches its climax on the feast of the Epiphany, the ‘time of the showing’ of God’s loving presence in the world. The great sweep of poetry and symbol in the liturgical texts and chants we saw in Advent becomes even more dense and more layered now, as we try to express how God’s loving plan for our salvation has unfolded in human history. That plan, hidden in ages past, now gradually shows itself more clearly, particularly in three events: the gifts of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana. We chant these in the famous Epiphany Magnificat antiphon, *Tribus miraculis ornatum diem sanctum colimus: hodie stella magos duxit ad praesepium; hodie vinum ex aqua factum est ad nuptias; hodie in Iordane a Ioanne Christus baptizari voluit, ut salvaret nos.* ‘We celebrate a day decorated with three wondrous events: today a star led the Magi to the manger; today wine was made from water at the wedding feast; today Christ willed to be baptized in the Jordan, that he might save us.’

S Matthew’s Gospel says Magi came ‘from the East to Jerusalem’ to worship the Christ, ‘born King of the Jews’, and brought gifts. Opinions of the account vary, ranging from folktale with a moral purpose to literal fact. But there is a basis in fact for Magi. Herodotus tells us that they were the priestly caste of the Medes, in ancient Persia (today’s Iran). As followers of the religious philosophy of Zoroaster (or Zathustra), Magi studied the stars, and their astrology was widely respected. Zoroastrianism also prophesied a messiah type figure, who would be born of a virgin. The Magi also held great political power for a time, until the ascent of Darius in 522 BC finally ended their rule. Their religious influence continued, though, and was still strong at the time of the birth of Jesus.

The gospel story is rich in detail, and other traditions have embellished it, making it also a prominent element of our cultural history. Along with the Church Fathers, artists, poets, and writers through the centuries have codified some of these details and embellishments. E.g., no Church Father says the Magi were kings. Tertullian says they were ‘nearly kings’ (*ferre reges*), a reasonable description based on what we know about Magian political power. But the liturgy has long linked Ps 71:10 to them: ‘The kings of Tharsis and the islands shall offer presents; the kings of the Arabians and of Saba shall bring him gifts: and all the kings of the earth shall adore him.’ While this is not to prove either royal status or their route of travel, it is clear they were not viewed as ‘magicians,’ the negative meaning of *magoi* found in Acts 8:9ff. We also find gifts given by kings in Is 60:1f. This transition from astronomer-priests to kings was complete by the time of the Christian poet Prudentius in the late fourth century AD.

Scripture does not specify their number or names, and the number varied in early Christian art. We find examples with two, three, four, and eight. In the East, tradition favored twelve. Scripture does list three specific gifts, and this influenced some Church Fathers to speak of three, now the norm. From the seventh century, we find variants of the names Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar in the Latin West, but other names in the East among the Syrians and Armenians. These Western names are retained in a popular tradition to bless chalk on this day, then use it to mark the three kings’ initials above the main door of the home to ask God’s blessings on the occupants for the New Year, in the form **20 + C + M + B + 25.**

The Magi, ‘falling down,’ adored the Child and offered Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. People through the ages have seen a myriad of different meanings in these gifts, and kneeling and prostration as acts of adoration in the presence of a theophany have become a part of Western liturgical practice. A common set of meanings has been gold for earthly kingship or virtue, frankincense for priesthood or prayer, and myrrh for embalming for death or suffering.

The liturgy sings clearly its own view of the Gospel account and its meaning in our lives in the Alleluia verse of the Mass of the day: *Vidimus stellam eius in Oriente, and venimus cum muneribus adorare Dominum.* ‘We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to worship the Lord.’ The liturgy challenges us to live these words. Have we seen the manifestations of God’s loving presence in our day? Have we come with gifts—especially the gift of ourselves—to worship the Lord? The splendor of the poetry, the power of the music, and the radiance of warmth and light that the Epiphany liturgy offers us are designed to make us Magi in our own time, so we can say truthfully that we have seen the radiance of that star and we have come, led by its light, to adore the Lord.

+++++



# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



*In your charity, please pray for all those whom our Christmas flowers honor or commemorate.*

*In Memory of:*

Edward Agnew, Sr.  
 William Allen  
 Donald & Mary Appelbaum  
 Leona Auer  
 Shirley Basciano  
 James & Jane Bearden  
 Sam & Irene Bearden  
 Henry "Chip" Beers  
 Mary Beres  
 Don Bornhop  
 Linda Bromeier  
 Frank & Jo Burla  
 Carrie Capasso  
 Jim Corrigan  
 Ed Costigan  
 Rev. John C. Deken  
 Mary Lou Deken  
 Deken Family, deceased  
 Alberta Delahunt  
 William Diepenbrock  
 Ben & Mary Dixon  
 Cecilia & George Doyle  
 Martha Dromey  
 Helen Ebert  
 Joshua Ebert  
 Rudi Engelbrecht  
 Robert & Mary Ennis  
 Kay Hagan Erdel  
 Andy & Lee Fenoglio  
 Albert & Geraldine Fink  
 Brenda Gatta  
 Kathleen Graham  
 Jane Greiff  
 Jim Griffin  
 Wm & LaVerne Griffin  
 Anne & Norman Hacker  
 Dorothy Hannon  
 James Hannon  
 Emma & Edwin Harding  
 Gary Harrell  
 Salvatore Hartzell  
 Ken & Peggy Heitmeier  
 Jaquise & Equan Hopson  
 Carol Indelicato  
 Kimberly Indelicato  
 Jerry Johnson  
 Michael Joyce

James & Thelma Kuyrkendall  
 Kristin Kazyak  
 Leo & Gladys Kazyak  
 Colleen Joyce Kelly  
 Robert Kiser  
 Clarice Koch  
 Matthew Koch  
 Dana Lattanzi  
 Joseph & Mary Machain  
 Robert Marcos  
 Marilyn Marshall  
 William D. Martin  
 Michael McCafferty, Sr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dennis McDonald  
 Michael McDonald  
 Mr. & Mrs. William McDonald  
 Sandra McNally  
 Abigail Meyer  
 Mary-Rose Meyer  
 Walter & Iva Miller  
 Liz Moloney  
 Richard & Eleanor Moff  
 Carmen Nolfo  
 Michael Norfleet, Sr.  
 Norfleet Family, deceased  
 Delia Ortiz  
 Ed & Irene Otradovec  
 William L. Owens  
 Tessa Prebil  
 Gregg Pickert  
 Michael Raskob  
 Abb & Dorothy Rhodes  
 Rosales Family,  
 family, friends, & benefactors of  
 Bob & Helen Russell  
 Gerald Saykes  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Saykes  
 Ruth & Robert Schaberg  
 Jack & Dolores Schoelch  
 Kathleen Smith  
 Walburga Catherine Steiner  
 Cheryl Stricker  
 Gerald Timpe  
 Helen Weber  
 Mark Weber

Carmela Weisbrod  
 Joseph Weisbrod  
 Ella Wiesler  
 Gene Wiesler  
 John Wiesler  
 John Wiesler, Jr.  
 Sr. Joan Williams  
 Michael & Ethel Witt  
 Wilmer & Flo Zimmermann

*In Honor of:*

Msgr. Morris  
 Fr. Rennie  
 Fr. Linus  
 Msgr. Witt  
 Br. Macarius of Jesus Christ  
 Crucified  
 Br. Peter Mary of the Cross  
 Sr. Erin Losin  
 John Auer  
 Barbara Barber  
 Riley Brown  
 Betty Guempel  
 David & Lynne Heger  
 June Heger  
 Tim & Abby Jost  
 Nicholas Kalinowski  
 Carl P. Kelly  
 Cathy Loffredo  
 Vincent Loffredo, Sr.  
 The McCabe Family  
 Brenda Marcos  
 Nathan & Ashley Matusiack  
 Kathleen J. Morris  
 Francis Pilch  
 Sue Russell's children  
 Jim & Amy Terschluse  
 David & Carolyn Zwart





**Perfect Love**  
DOULA SERVICES  
Amanda Antony, Doula  
doulaperfectlovedoula.com  
(903) 348-6205  
"Perfect love casts out fear."  
1 John 4:18

**COLDWELL BANKER**  
Powered by Coldwell Banker Premier  
**Alex Filla**  
Premier Real Estate Agent  
Vedenhaupt Team | Oratory Member  
afilla@cbphomes.com  
Office: 636-231-3122 • Cell: 636-390-2121



Oratory Family  
**Cori Nations photography**  
Capturing all aspects of Catholic family life.






**ST. CLAIR FAMILY DENTISTRY**  
Phillip Buckley, DDS  
Schedule Your Appointment!  
**636-629-1103**  
stclairfamilydentistry.com  
525 E. Springfield Road • St. Clair, Missouri


**CARITAS MORTGAGE GROUP**  
at Sovereign Mortgage Investments  
\$500 donated to the Oratory for every purchase or refinance for or referred by an Oratory member!  
**GARRETT KENNELL**  
Call/Text: 314.208.3558

St. Veronica, Pray for us. Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for us. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on us.

**FIDUCIARY ADVISORS INC.**  
REGISTERED INVESTMENT ADVISOR  
We Provide Solutions, We Dont Sell Products  
**www.fiduciaryadv.com**  
**314-726-5110**  
**tgrizzle@fiduciaryadv.com**



- Financial planning for individuals
- 401(k) consulting for employers
- Fee-only (no commissions)
- Low cost index investing

**catholicmatch**  
Missouri  
CatholicMatch.com/MO



**TWO MIKES CATERING**  
"Service is our Specialty at an affordable price."  
www.twomikescatering.com  
**314-752-5800**

Registered Representative offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC (member FINRA/SIPC), A Licensed Insurance Agency  
**NEW YORK LIFE**  
Your Registered Representative & Insurance Agent  
**Ann Geraldine Moloney**  
314-265-6481






**STL MISC**  
St. Louis Minimally Invasive Spine Center,  
Dr. Robert Morgan  
4590 South Lindbergh Blvd  
St. Louis, Missouri 63127  
**314-270-9494**  
stlmisc.com  
**Robert Morgan, MD, FACS**  
Diplomate of American Board of Orthopedic Surgery



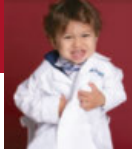
**Helen Gelhot, M.D.**  
Advanced Wellness  
Internal Medicine  
**314.576.0094**  
Do you have a Catholic healthcare proxy? A guardian for your kids if the unthinkable happens? Put a plan in place today for peace of mind tomorrow.  
Wills & Trusts  
Guardianships & Conservatorships  
Special Needs & Disability Planning  
**314.886.0235**  
Free Peace of Mind Planning Session (\$350 value • only with this ad)

**Special Trust**  
LEGAL LLC  
**Jennifer DiCarlo**  
Attorney

**VERITAS**  
FERTILITY & SURGERY  
Authentically Catholic Fertility Care and Advanced Reproductive Surgery  
Gavin Puthoff, MD  
Kristin Kalinowski, MD  
veritasfertility.com

**St. Teresa PEDIATRICS**  
Dr. Elizabeth Abraham & Dr. Mark Herbers  
Top Docs in Pediatrics  
7387 Watson Road  
Saint Louis, MO 63119  
**(314) 500-KIDS**  
stteresapediatrics.com



**Are your finances aligned with your faith?**  
With Knights of Columbus and its partners\* you can protect your family, plan for your retirement and give meaningfully — all in harmony with your Catholic faith.  
**Knights of Columbus**  
Lister Agency  
\*Knights of Columbus and its partners, Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors and Knights of Columbus Charitable Fund, are entities that each provide separate and distinct products and services. Financial retirement planning, life and disability income insurance, and personal philanthropy entail certain risks. Learn more at [kofc.org/liveyourfaith](http://kofc.org/liveyourfaith)  
1 Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06510

Contact us today to learn more.  
**Gabe Jones, CLTC, FICF, FSCP**  
Assistant General Agent  
Clients north of the Oratory  
314-370-6839  
gabe.jones@kofc.org  
**Tim Buback, CLTC, FICF, FSCP**  
Financial Advisor  
Clients south of the Oratory  
636-400-7544  
timothy.buback@kofc.org

**SPEAKeasy**  
Therapies and Fitness  
Specialized Parkinson's Speech Therapy & Wellness Services  
speakeasy@speakeasystl.org  
**1-314-246-0751**  
www.speakeasystl.org

**Vee Mary Agnes**  
Musician | 314-574-9092  
Weddings  
Corporate Events  
Dinner Parties  
Fundraisers  
Cocktail Hours  
and any gathering that benefits from music!  
veemaryagnes.com

