



ST. PATRICK

CATHOLIC CHURCH

277 South Fourth Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38126
901.527.2542

www.stpatsmemphis.org

Founded in 1866

Sunday Mass Schedule: 8:30am; 11:00am; 5:00pm

Celebrating the Sacraments

***Reconciliation: Sundays 8:15 a.m.–8:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
4:45 p.m.–5:00 p.m. or by appointment***

**To inquire about Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Anointing of the Sick,
please call the Church Office at (901) 527-2542**



The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

This Week: Page 320: Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64:1, 3b-8; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37

Next Week: Page 322: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; Psalm: 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

MISSION STATEMENT

*The Mission of St. Patrick's Catholic Community is to proclaim and live
the Gospel message of unconditional love, healing and reconciliation
through prayer, celebration and action on behalf of justice
as a sign of hope for all God's people.*



**This Week's Mass
Schedule
With Father Val!
Tuesday – Friday
5:15pm**



Pray for the Sick

Families and friends of the sick, homebound, and elderly are invited to pray with us

Saturday, December 16, at 10:00 am in the parish library.



Information will also be available at that time if you feel called to Ministry to the Sick. Next training will be Saturday, January 27.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Advent



A Word from Father Val--
There will be two occasions when we as a parish can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) as a special way of preparing for Christmas--

- The penance service for the downtown parishes at **St. Peter's Church** on **Wednesday, December 13th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.**
- And, the penance service at the **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception** on **Monday, December 18th**, beginning at **7:00 p.m.**

I shall be one of the confessors at both of these penance services. I hope that many of us take advantage of this beautiful sacrament celebrating forgiveness and healing.

Also, at any time during Advent, you can make a time to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with me here at St. Patrick.

**The Feast of the
Immaculate
Conception**

**Holy Day of Obligation
Friday, December 8
Mass at 5:15 p.m.**



**Dorothy Day House
Christmas Fundraiser**



Today, after each Mass, the Dorothy Day House will distribute the Christmas wreaths and garlands that were pre-ordered a few weeks ago to support their ministry to homeless families.

Thank you St. Patrick Parish for supporting the Dorothy Day House.



St. Patrick's Angel Tree

All of our Angels were chosen!

We have added children from

St. Patrick Jubilee School

and our parish. Please

choose your angel(s) and

record the child's name

and your name on the

sign-up sheets provided.

Please wrap and

deliver all gifts to

the church or the

office no later than

Sunday, December 10.

Please be sure to include the Angel Tree card with the gift. As always,

thank you for your generosity and

for your willingness to help provide

a merry Christmas to our children.



Word, Eucharist, Life

First Sunday of Advent



Isaiah 63
Psalm 80
1 Corinthians 1
Mark 13

Be watchful! Be alert!

The prayer in Isaiah 63
could well be a prayer for our nation
at this time in our history
Some call us a Christian nation
yet we act in violent and dishonest ways
before the rest of the world
even attacking others
bombing civilians and their children
while denying refugees safety
We are called to *be alert*
to our own faults as a nation
well blessed as we are in material ways
but having immense spiritual impoverishment
in parts of our culture
Our longing for peace has to be
put into action for the welfare of all
enemies and friends alike
We pray to the Lamb of God
for the gift of peace
and must be watchful for the signs of peace
and for peacemakers in our midst
at the same time
taking peace-steps ourselves
We pray for the coming of the Lord
and this requires of us the watchfulness
that will become a true and active welcome
for the Prince of Peace
While the master has left us his disciples
as *servants in charge*
we are held responsible
for being awake to the needs of our world
Our Eucharist draws us into the mystery
of Christ's coming into our lives
and of our awakening
in the Breaking of the Bread
for the sake of the community
of all who come from the Creator's hands

The Second Collection today benefits the St. Patrick Outreach Center Food Ministry.

St. Patrick provides a robust food ministry
to the surrounding community. More

Than a Meal is
served on the
last Sunday of
each month; we
serve a hot, full
course, sit-down
meal to our
hungry



neighbors. The
second Sunday of the month is *Crock Pot
Sunday*. Parishioners bring pots of soup or
crock pots to be served in to-go
containers. The remaining Sundays we
call *Soup on Sunday* and the Outreach
Center cooking team prepares hot soups
and stews in to-go containers. Tuesday
through Friday, volunteers distribute
groceries through the *Food Pantry* to
clients who are screened and approved by
MIFA. *The Green Machine* is a mobile



market providing fresh fruits and
vegetables to food deserts throughout the
week. During the growing season,
volunteers from the community, school
and church plant and harvest a
Community Garden.

Please contribute as you are able



Remembrance of the Departed



James Crawford	December 13, 1986
Margaret Metz	December 9, 2011
Paul J. Oliver	December 6, 2013
Julienne Campbell	December 28, 2014

Help needed with Music Ministry

If you play an instrument, or have vocal gifts to offer, here is your opportunity to share God-given talents to enhance our Liturgies! St. Patrick's needs you!! We have lost Andrew on piano and are calling forth the gifts from within the parish. We know the Holy Spirit is alive and well and very active here among this community, so please respond to that inner prompting and add your name and phone number to the sign-up sheet on the table near the Angel Tree, and someone will contact you within the week! Together we will help shape the future of the Music Ministry here at St. Patrick's for the 11 am and 5 pm Masses!



Please pray for the sick in our parish community, our friends and loved ones:

Patrick Shea, Joy Asbury, Mary Baldwin, Patricia Split, Jeanne Richardson, Jeanna Millington, Art Sutherland, Deacon Eugene Champion, Kat Bagley, Karen Silverstein. Mary Ruben, Bernice Watkins, Robert Collins, Linda and James Owen, Lanny Merrill, Sharon Shea, Fred Robinson, Richard Asbury, Peggy Cunningham, Thomas Born, Blanche Forest, Lucinda Lee, Margaret Lynch,



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Our Offertory Donations

Thanksgiving Day	\$ 490
November 26 Offering	5,262
Total	\$5,752

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Aiden Williams	December 2
Frances Daniel	December 4
Bernice Watkins	December 4
Jane Hampshire	December 6
Francetta Puentes	December 6
Margaret Calicott	December 8
Peggy Cunningham	December 8
Matt Pentis	December 9
Aaron Walsh	December 10
Rozelle Greene	December 11
Theresa Gifford	December 12
Joyce Johnson	December 13
Mark Prudhomme	December 13
Robert Shanahan	December 13
Maria Hernandez	December 19
Christopher Constantino	December 22
Marsha Smith	December 22
Noelle Crone	December 23
Roy Repelin	December 26
Nia Zalamea	December 26
Julie Farrar	December 27
Albert Vaughn	December 28
Timothy Mosteller	December 29
Tom Carnesi	December 30
Thalia Repelin	December 30

Advent and Christmas Decorations



A Note from Father Val--

Parishioner Anne Stubblefield asked me if the Parish Worship Team could reconvene. With Advent and Christmas right here, during the week of Thanksgiving, members of the Parish Worship Team met and made plans. (Of course, some were out of town for the holidays.)

As the Worship Team went over what has been done in the past, I explained what the church's liturgical instructions recommend in the document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Built of Living Stones: "Decorations are intended to draw people to the true nature of the mystery being celebrated rather than being ends in themselves. *Natural* flowers, plants, wreaths and fabric hangings, and other seasonal objects can be arranged to enhance the primary liturgical points of focus" (#124, emphasis added).

Notice that this liturgical instruction specifies "natural" flowers and plants. In our reflection, I gave it over to the Worship Team members present to decide if St. Patrick's should continue with artificial Christmas trees, or try "natural" ones. I let them decide. It was the clear consensus (although not unanimous) to try "natural" trees for our Christmas decorations this year. The Worship Team will decide on how much, and what type of decorations, and their placement in the sanctuary and through the church.

If you would like to join the Parish Worship Team and help with the decorations, see Anne or Ro O'Sullivan.

One final point: Father Bruce Cinquegrani, who has his doctorate in liturgical studies and teaches at CBU, has agreed to my request that he teach St. Patrick parishioners and St. Anne parishioners (where he pastors) his course on liturgy. He will do so in the near future, and it will be on Saturday mornings. I'll let you know when. He is an excellent, vibrant teacher. It will be worth our time.



Holiday Mass Schedule

December 24
Christmas Vigil 5:00

December 25
Midnight Mass 12:00 am
Christmas Day 10:00 am

To All Our Visitors!



Thank you for choosing to worship with us today! If you are passing through town, we wish you a safe and happy visit. If you are interested in joining St. Patrick parish or just looking for more information, please leave your contact information on the sheet located in the back of the church and someone will call you shortly to follow up.

Next Steps for St. Patrick Parish

Below is the homily which Father Val gave during all three of this past Sunday Masses. It outlines the next steps of St. Patrick's, after he has consulted with some of the "veteran" parishioners and staff members.

Since some of you may have been out of town because of the Thanksgiving holiday, the homily is reprinted for you--and for all others who want to reflect further on this process.

Christ the King-A

St. Patrick

November 26, 2017

Theme: We continue the procession, ever called to know the Shepherd, that he might "guide us by right paths."

"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want." Psalm 23 is the most loved of all the 150 psalms, and it's given us as we celebrate Christ the King this Sunday.

It happened in the month of November—in the year 1866. It was reported in the Memphis newspaper at that time, *The Daily Avalanche*, in these words: "On Sunday afternoon (November 18, 1866), Bishop Feehan (bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee), in presence of over 7,000 people, laid the cornerstone of St. Patrick's Church...A procession was formed at St. Peter's Church...and... proceeded to the new church...The Bishop used a beautiful silver trowel in spreading mortar on the stone, and sprinkled holy water on the building...The *Veni Creator* ("Come Holy Spirit") was then sung in magnificent style..." (1)

St. Patrick's in 2017: For more than 150 years, that procession has continued coming here to the corner of Fourth and Linden. Oh, that first November Sunday, more than 7,000 folks. How many thousands upon thousands have come here over these years—some perhaps just a single visit, others making *this* their oasis of the spirit!

We make that procession here now. Again, from Psalm 23, "**Beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul**"—oh, those words speak to us of the life-giving Sacrament of Baptism, that consecration remembered each time we sign ourselves in the baptismal water as we enter the church. And, likewise in Psalm 23, "**You spread the table before me...my cup overflows**"—for us, this prefigures the nourishment of the Eucharist we celebrate each Sunday. (2)

"He guides me in right paths for his name's sake," so this psalm assures us. *The Shepherd* guides us...at this point in the procession of more than 150 years. Friends: If we truly trust these words, then let's choose the path we need to take as we craft our future here at St. Patrick's. To do that, all of us need to take a part in allowing the Shepherd to guide us. After Christmas, in the later part of January, we're going to have what I call "house meetings." Each "house meeting" is going to have eight to ten parishioners. These meetings will be held in the homes of the parishioners, or here on our St. Patrick campus. In these "house meetings," within the context of prayer and Scripture, we're going to identify our goals as a parish. Then, right before Lent begins in mid-February, we're going to have a big gathering of all of us to hear from each group, identifying what are each group's three top priorities. From that, we'll determine—we'll discern—what are our chief goals as we craft our future as a parish.

Shortly after that we'll have parish council elections and attempt to make these goals happen.

During the last two years Pope Francis had a major synod, or meeting, on the family. In preparation, beginning three years ago, Pope Francis asked members of the church worldwide to submit their input into the discernment process. I submitted my thoughts. In all my years, I'd never had the pope asked me—*us!*—to offer our prayerful ideas.

So, in these “house meetings” we’re going to trust that the Holy Spirit may well speak through *each* of us, *all* of us in this parish. So, at this point in *our* “procession,” we can sing *Veni, Creator Spiritu*—“Come, Holy Spirit!” It’s not a poll of what each of us would like. Instead, it’s a discernment: *How do we sense the Shepherd guiding us “by right paths,” as Psalm 23 promises?*

One final thought on that beloved psalm. In ancient England, dinner guests often entertained their guests after dining. At one dinner, an actor was among the guests and did an exquisite rendition of Psalm 23, “**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**” At the end all the guests stood and applauded. Then one of the guests noticed an elderly aunt of the host; she was dozing off in the back of the grand room. She was deaf and had missed practically all of the entertainment. “Auntie,” the guest went up to her and shouted, “Come up and do something. Give us Psalm 23, too.” All the guests watched as she came to the front of the room and, by memory, recited the psalm. At the end, there wasn’t a dry eye among all the guests. Later, one guest asked the actor, “Your rendition was amazing. So why were we so touched by the aunt?” The actor answered, “Simple—I know the psalm, but the aunt knows the shepherd.” (3)

As we start Advent next Sunday, and then together, we celebrate Christmas, let us—St. Patrick’s—better come to *know* the Shepherd, Christ our King. Not knowing about him; rather, knowing Jesus deeply within. *Then*, as we heard from this Sunday’s Scriptures about this Shepherd, we’ll experience “**The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal.**”

Then, as this parish has done so faithfully over the years, we’ll “**take on the smell of the sheep,**” as Pope Francis puts it beautifully. *Then*, we’ll show our allegiance to our King—yes, as he “**guides us by right paths.**”



Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

Mike Stengel for putting up the Angel Tree

Teresa Geoghegan Brown and her entire visiting family for tying the Angel cards to the tree

Maureen Hough, Brenda Somes, Teresa Geoghegan Brown for preparing our worship space for the Advent season

Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You



Today's Psalm Response

***Lord, make us turn to you; let us see
your face and we shall be saved.
(Psalm 80)***

Liturgical Ministers

December 3

8:30

Lectors:	Matt Pentis	Mike Duffy
EMHCs:	Brenda Somes	Pat Papachristo
Sacristan:	Aletta Roebuck	

11:00

Lectors:	Anita Houk	Chris Constantino
EMHCs:	Anne Stubblefield	Joe Birch
Sacristan:	Phyllis Somerville	

5:00

Lectors:	Linda Jackson	Dave Smith
EMHCs:	Chris Claude	Donna McLellan
Sacristan:	Eric Tidquist	
Flowers:	Advent	

December 10

8:30

Lectors:	Albert Vaughn	Natalie Nibert
EMHCs:	Joyce Johnson	Oneata Windler
Sacristan:	Andrea Nichols	

11:00

Lectors:	Anita Houk	Bob Reilly
EMHCs:	Elena Murphy	Margaret Calicott
Sacristan:	Le Martin and Jane Hampshire	

5:00

Lectors:	Aaron Walsh	Angela Terry
EMHCs:	Donna McLellan	Julie Dillon
Sacristan:	Eric Tidquist	
Flowers:	Advent	

ST. PATRICK'S STAFF

Rev. Val Handwerker – Parochial Administrator
Rev. Mr. Eugene Champion – Deacon
Ro O'Sullivan – Coordinator of Faith Formation
ro.osullivan@stpat.cdom.org
Julie Boland – Office Manager
julie.boland@stpat.cdom.org

ST. PATRICK'S CENTER STAFF

Rev. Val Handwerker – Parochial Administrator
Deacon Eugene Champion – Director
Anna Champion – Administrative Assistant
Anne Stubblefield – Volunteer Coordinator

ST. PATRICK'S JUBILEE SCHOOL

Susan Pittman – School Principal

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Earl Randle – 8:30 a.m. Mass
Natalie Nibert – 11:00 a.m. Mass
Russell Moose – 5:00 p.m. Mass
Angela Vandoli – Cantor
Julie Farrar – Cantor
Victoria Godwin – Cantor



Did you know that you can set up your offerings to St. Patrick Church through the Parish Giving option on our website? Your contributions will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account or credit card and deposited directly to St. Patrick's bank account. It's a safe and easy way to make your donations. Just go to www.stpatsmemphis.org and click on Parish Giving. Enter Zip Code 38126 and press Search.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 3, 2017

8:30am Intention of the Celebrant
11:00am St. Patrick Church
5:00pm Intention of the Celebrant

Weekday Mass

Tue, Dec 5 5:15pm Intention of the Celebrant
Wed, Dec 6 5:15pm Intention of the Celebrant
Thu, Dec 7 10:00am Intention of the Celebrant
Fri, Dec 8 5:15pm Intention of the Celebrant

If you would like a Mass Intention, please call the parish office: 527-2542