



Founded 1866

287 Ida B. Wells (S. 4th) Street, Memphis, TN 38126
901•527•2542 stpatsmemphis.org

Sunday Masses: 8:30am 11:00am 5:15pm
Weekday Masses: Tuesday - Friday: 5:15pm



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph **December 29, 2024**

This Week: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52
Next Week: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of St. Patrick 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.

PARISH NEWS



Welcome to Saint Patrick Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Our close-knit and diverse parish family has been serving our neighborhood since 1866. Young, old, poor, rich, various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds gather 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. From our lively music to our Catechesis of the Good Shepherd formation program; from our commitment to liturgy being truly "the work of the people" to plentiful social outreach opportunities through our St. Patrick-Champion Outreach Center, St. Pat's continues to be a vibrant community of faith that is centered in prayer and action that extends far beyond the walls of our buildings.

Saint Patrick is the third oldest parish in Memphis following St. Mary in The Pinch and St. Peter downtown. Our community was founded to serve the growing number of working-class Irish families in the south Memphis neighborhoods.

Despite sickness and tragedy of the Yellow Fever Epidemics in Memphis, the community continued to grow. In 1904, construction on a new Romanesque church building began. The parish served as a "mother church" to two new parishes, St. Thomas in Soulsville and Immaculate Conception in Central Gardens during this time. To honor our Irish heritage, the co-patrons of Ireland, Saint Patrick and Saint Brigid are featured on either side of the Holy Family in the apse above the Sanctuary. Our pipe organ is the oldest working pipe organ in Memphis. Completed and dedicated in 1905 by the Bishop of Nashville, Right Reverend Thomas S. Byrne, our gathering space stands today as a testament to not only the enduring spirit of our community, but also our charism of accompanying the people of God through the tests of time. The St. Patrick campus resides on the ancestral homeland of the Quapaw Nation.

In 1954, St. Patrick welcomed the Paulist Fathers, who served our community until 2013. Our time with the Paulists during the Civil Rights Movement, drastic changes to our neighborhood, and changes within the Catholic Church at large imbued our community with our famous radical welcome, commitment to justice and solidarity, and a call to action to love God and each other. As a result of the missionary spirit of the Paulist Fathers, many of our traditions such as an empowered laity, the Good Friday Neighborhood Stations of the Cross, Noyze in the Hood caroling, the first LGBTQ Catholic ministry in Memphis, and various outreach ministries that still root us in place and faith began.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and Vatican II, St. Patrick became a full-time gathering space for the community and worship and not just a space for Sunday obligation. Taking note from the global Church and the Acts of the Apostles, we choose to forego kneeling and commit to the active act of standing shoulder-to-shoulder in communion with God and each other during Mass. Except during the solemn seasons of Advent and Lent, we clap during the Great Amen and hold hands during the "Our Father." We believe Mass is a celebration, Mass is a feast, Mass is a chance to share in the glory of God together actively and with joy. Some of our members still kneel and we encourage everyone to do what connects them with God and makes them comfortable.

We heartily welcome all who come through our doors and are committed to accompanying each other on all journeys of faith.

PARISH NEWS

Today's Psalm Response

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. (Psalm 128)

11am MASS



Live streamed Every Sunday at
www.bit.ly/StPatrickFacebook

Worship Aid Available
Readings and Music
www.stpatsmemphis.org
Click on Communications



Replayed on YouTube after 1:00 pm
www.bit.ly/StPatrickYouTube

Baptismal Preparation Class For Parents and Godparents



If you plan to participate in a Baptism in the next few months, please call the parish office 901-527-2542 so we can schedule a preparation class.

Sacrament of Reconciliation



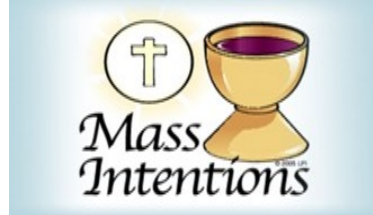
Sundays 7:50 am-8:10 am
10:20 am-10:40 am
4:40 pm-5:00 pm
or by appointment
901-527-2542

Can be done face-to-face or anonymously.

JOURNEY TO CATHOLICISM

Our Journey to Catholicism sessions will resume on January 12 at 9:45am. We are now entering the period of more intense preparation for those who have decided to become Roman Catholics at Easter or if you are an active Roman Catholic who missed Confirmation, please contact Sally Greene if you are interested in being Confirmed.

Please call or email Sally Greene (901) 483-3656 or sbg1220@aol.com with questions.



Jan 5, 8:30 am, Daniel Alcazar for his birthday by the Hernandez and Alcazar family
Jan 5, 11:00 am, +Miguel Ramirez Rivera on the 13th anniversary of his death by the Hernandez and Alcazar family

WEEKLY CALENDAR Dec 29 - Jan 5

Sunday, Dec 29

- 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:15pm Masses
- 9:45 pm, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Atria
- 9:45 am, Sunday by Sunday Group, Braganza Rm
- 11:00 am Mass live streamed on Facebook
- 1:00 pm, Soup Kitchen, Outreach Center

Tuesday, Dec 31

- NO Mass

Wednesday, Jan 1

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

- 10:00 am, Mass

Thursday, Jan 2

- 5:15 pm, Communion Service, Chapel

Friday, Jan 3

- 5:15 pm, Communion Service, Chapel
- NO First Friday Adoration

Sunday, Jan 5

- 8:30 am, 11:00 am, 5:15pm Masses
- 9:45 pm, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Atria
- 9:45 am, Sunday by Sunday Group, Braganza Rm
- 11:00 am Mass live streamed on Facebook
- 1:00 pm, Soup Kitchen, Outreach Center



The Massacre of the Innocents Goes On

Raouf Halaby



The biblical narrative of Herod's decision to butcher some 3,000 innocent children inspired Renaissance and Baroque artists to produce hundreds of dramatic and powerful harrowing canvases of all sizes. Under the title *The Massacre of the Innocents*, this genocide, ordered and overseen by Herod, has been memorialized in art by Peter Paul Rubens, Guido Reni, Giotto, Breughel the Elder, and Nicolas Poussin, to name but a few.

Because it captures the dastardly event in all its lurid and gut-wrenching orgiastic carnage, Peter Paul Rubens' 1611 *The Massacre of the Innocents* stands far above similar paintings of this genre.

In the Christian holy text Matthew tells his readers about the unique events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ, a Palestinian Jewish child, conceived miraculously to a young Nazarene maiden, and born in a manger to Joseph of Nazareth and Mary, his betrothed. And because there was no room at any of the Beit Lahem (Bethlehem) inns, Mary delivered the infant child in a manger in the Holy City of Beit Lahem, Palestine.

In some ways circumstances in Palestine some two-thousand years ago were no different from what they are today. Palestine was a Roman colony, and as such, the colonizers ruled with a brutal iron fist and exacted hefty taxes. After the Roman Senate declared Herod King of Judea (a vassal king to impose Pax Romana), his paranoiac affliction and ruthlessness inflicted misery on the people of Palestine, Jews and others alike. Fearing that the birth of Jesus, the promised Messiah, would eventually depose him, he ordered the murder of some three thousand innocent children in Bethlehem and environs. In first century Palestine violence and executions, taxation without representation, human rights violations, segregation, slavery, exploitation, xenophobia, expulsion, and the confiscation of personal and communal properties were the norm in a society that demeaned and deprecated its indigenous non-Jewish populations.

As an example, the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Levites of Jesus' time considered the Samaritans and others inferior races, claiming that the Samaritans were mongrel Jews, and that God excluded all others from his Covenant. This legalistic and intolerant ethnocentrism paved the way for the ethnocentric hypocrites of the time to transfer the mixed group Samaritans to Samaria; the latter were reviled, persecuted, ostracized, and restricted to the West Bank's Mt. Gerizim. Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan was no doubt based on and directed at the bigotry and xenophobia that prevailed during that epoch. And this, my favorite parable, has held true in every clime and geographical locale.

If one were to compare conditions in Pax Romana Palestine at the time of Jesus' birth to Pax Americana/Israelica in modern day occupied Palestine, one would be shocked to discover that Roman occupation was infinitely more benign. Further, the biblical narrative informs us that at the time of Christ's birth Palestine was an extension of Augustus' massive empire. Palestina/Falasteen was sandwiched between Egypt and Syria; the first served as Rome's breadbasket, and the second as Rome's eastern line of defense and the last stop of the ancient Silk Road – and one of the conduits that fed the insatiable Roman treasury to maintain its stranglehold on its expansive Pax Romana Empire. Ironic it is that American, British, and European hegemony in that same region (including the bloody Crusades) are no different from Rome's. And since 1917, the Brits, French, and later the Americans have been drawing and redrawing the boundaries of the oil-rich Near-East; and "What we say, goes" is the new Anglo-Franco-Americana Pax Oleum Petra.

Utilizing the Jewish King Herod as a friendly client and puppet, the Romans gave him a free hand. And, as long as he collected taxes to help enrich Rome's coffers, Herod's heavy-handed rule was viewed benignly by Rome. Perceiving the birth of the promised Messiah/King as a threat to his rule, Herod ordered the genocidal killing of all male infants in Bethlehem and environs.

What Rome was to Herod, America (and subservient US presidents and Congresses) and its acquiescent European US vassals are to Netanyahu and Israel.

It is more than fair to say that if one compared living conditions in Palestine and the occupied West Bank and Gaza during the time of Jesus' birth to current living conditions of Palestinians all across the Holy Land, one would be shocked at the shrieking (think Edvard Munch's *The Scream*) and howling of anguished cries of a nation robbed of its birthright.

On the 8th of December 2024 I sent the following email to a handful of friends, acquaintances, editors of moderate Baptist online publications, including a genocide expert: "That Palestinians are brown, and that most are Muslims, does that mean they are fair game because in the Evangelical and West's taxonomy of human beings they are children of a lesser God?"

Before, during, and well after the Thanksgiving meal my stomach churned. How could I enjoy a family meal when 2.3 million Gaza Palestinians are deliberately starved by Biden's cowardice and full throttle support of the Gaza carnage and Netanyahu's belligerent defiance, his hangman? The silence of America and Europe's Christians is very telling."

The Institute of Middle Eastern Understanding's October 7, 2024 report under the title "Fact Sheet: One Year of Israeli Genocide in Gaza, By the Numbers," is a comprehensive and chilling report on Israel's deliberate and systematic malevolent destruction and erasure of man, beast, physical structures, and an ancient and rich culture. The report stated that since October 7, 2023, 45,841 Gazans have been killed, 70% of whom are women and children, with 106,962 thousand wounded. 19,812 of the dead are children – male/female, with approximately 1,300 infants and toddlers under two. The Lancet Medical Journal puts the dead at 225,140 thousand. In the Occupied West Bank 813 children have been killed. The aforementioned does not include the thousands of victims missing and buried under the rubble, over 4,000 of whom are children. Oxfam reported that "More women and children have been killed in Gaza over the past year than any other conflict over the past two decades." Over 26,500 children have been diagnosed with life-threatening acute malnutrition and starvation. Over 1,200 children have had one or both legs amputated. This prompted U.N.C.E.F. to state that "The Gaza Strip is the most dangerous place in the world to be a child."

Unfortunately, on today's world stage and with Pope Francis as an exception, there's not even a single Wise Man from either the East or the West. And not one, but many Near Eastern and Western Grinches have stolen Christmas from millions of kids around the world, *Innocents* who yearn not for the expensive toys, but for a warm bed, warm clothes, safe shelter, three decent meals a day, safe schools and communities, playgrounds, dignity, freedom, and hope for a future free from the threat of evil by the likes of our modern-day Assads, Netan-Herods and Bidens Et. Al.

The expression of agony on [Poussin's mother](#) in his masterpiece *The Massacre of the Innocents* is the same expression one witnesses on the faces of Palestinian, Syrian, Iraqi, Yemeni, Afghani, Sudanese, and Somali mothers and children, including all the suffering mothers around the world victimized by apartheid, bigotry, intolerance, oppression, and wars.

My email ended thusly: "And Jesus wept for Palestine and her orphaned children. He also wept for an apathetic America and a Western civilization that is fueling and financing the carnage. In deep pain and deeper sorrow."

As my dear friend, the Honorable Judge/Preacher Wendell Griffen says, "Jesus was an occupied Palestinian, not an Israeli occupier. Get your story straight."

Buon Natale, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.

Raouf J. Halaby is a Professor Emeritus of English and Art. He is a writer, photographer, sculptor, an avid gardener, and a peace activist. halabys7181@outlook.c

PARISH NEWS

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

Pete Alfonso, Mary Baldwin, Fran Barendse, Ray Barker, Rosemary Batorski, Ray Berthiaume, Jane Marie Blackham, Sydney Bowers (Pamela Higgins' granddaughter), Antonio Bradshaw, Dick Breton, Ricky Burnett, Terri Burns (Mary Ann Burns' daughter-in-law), Andrew Carroll, David Carter (Rena Taylor's nephew), Deacon Eugene Champion, Sam Cochran, Janice Craven (Tim Craven's daughter), Annabel Crowson, Peggy Cunningham, Mateo Duarte, Bryan Duffel Sue Ann Duffy, Dot Eubanks, Gloria Sangster Fort, Jerry Foster, Sean Garlick, Senait Gebreab, Stephen Golanka (Mary Evans' son), Pat Gorney, Thelia Green, Bob Greene, Terry Greene Sr (Bob Greene's brother), Diane Griggs (Don Lawrence's daughter), Richard Grinder, Sr. Maureen Griner, Janis Habbaz, Travis Handwerker, Diane Harder, Patrick Harkins, Lisa Harris (Bob Greene's sister), Pamela Higgins, Maureen Hough, Brian Huebner, Juanita Huff, Florida Jackson, Roberta Kane (Mike Watermeier's sister-in-law), Jan Kidder, John Letchworth, Luca (Aletta Roebuck's two-year-old great-grandson), Evelyne Malone, Karen Mathis (Mac Mathis' daughter), Fenton McEvoy, Della Miles, Maureen Mischler, Bill Morman (Monica and Stephen Juma's uncle), Stephen and Margaret Murphy, Terry Nesmith, Nora O'Connell, Brad Patterson, Julian Prewitt (Linda Prewitt's husband), Deacon Eddie Ramsey, Rusty Ramsey, Earl Randle, John Clarence Simmons, Connie Simpson, Samantha Smith, Tara Stebbins, Tracy Sweat, Shelby Terry (Ray and Louise Terry's daughter-in-law), John Trouy (Beth Trouy's brother), Mary and Melvin Tuggle (Chandra Tuggle's parents), Lynn Tune, Robert Tutson, Pam Watermeier, Nia Watkins, Jan Watson, Basil White, Mary Wynn (Sharon Shea's mother), Cynthia Zawacki, Jan Zinselmeyer (Sr. Margaret Ann Zinselmeyer's sister-in-law)



Notify Parish Office: If you or someone you know is hospitalized or homebound and would like to be added to our prayer list, or if someone has recovered and should be removed from our list, please call the parish office at 901-527-2542.



Please follow us on social media!
And check out our website:
www.stpatmemphis.org



Small Faith Sharing and Prayer Groups

**Sunday by Sunday
Faith Sharing Group
Braganza Room, Outreach Center
Sunday, 9:45 a.m.**

Pat Papachristou ppapachr@cbu.edu

**A Prayer Circle
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. for about 30 minutes**
Jan Kidder jan.kidder62@gmail.com

**Sunday by Sunday
Faith Sharing Group
Fridays 10:30 am - Noon on Zoom**
Louise Cayo 901-833-1506
Donna McLellan 901-210-8321

**Say Their Names
Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.**
Linda Opiel lindaopiel@comcast.net
Sandy Heiss heisshouse@yahoo.com
Jan Kidder jan.kidder62@gmail.com

**Sunday by Sunday
Faith Sharing Group
Thursday, 10:30 - noon**
Judy Bettice
Call 901-327-8068 or text 901-216-7208

 **CATHOLIC MINISTRY**
WITH GAY & LESBIAN PERSONS

Please join us for our
First-Tuesday-of-the-Month Potluck

6:30pm | Food, Fellowship, Prayer
7:00pm | Speaker | Marian Hall
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

**January 7, 2025:
Gerry Taulman**

Religion & Ethics Teacher, CBHS
My Faith Journey

Bring a dish if you can, but come anyway if not!

All are Welcome

Gay, Straight, Family, Friends, and
Allies of All Faiths & Cultures Welcome

Contact us for more info: CMGLP@ic.cdom.org

PARISH NEWS

Offertory Donations



Offertory	\$ 5,155
Parish Giving	2,613
Outreach Center	2,550
Other	
Total	\$10,488

Christmas Masses \$2,403

Villa Vianney \$1,432

Thank you for your generosity!

FR. DEXTER'S NOTE

Dear St. Patrick family,

The following are the days I will be **out of town** for the rest of the year:

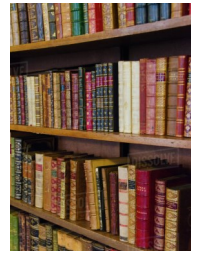
December 26th, - January 17th, 2025

Visit my family in the Philippines after almost 4 years

Parish Library

You are invited to visit our parish library in the Annex

**Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm
or by Appointment**



Rosalie Gibson	January 2	Bethany Peel	January 17
Matt Mulroy	January 3	Lisa Evanko	January 19
Barbara Tooles	January 4	Lena Korneliussen	January 19
Lance Flynn	January 5	Patrick O'Connell	January 19
Sarah Rack	January 5	Shantia Baldwin	January 20
Cole Heuerman	January 6	Sharon Evans	January 20
Debbie Reilly	January 6	Tobia Fuller	January 20
Lia Bailazar	January 7	Angela Andreuccetti	January 21
Nathaniel Dillon	January 7	Sue Anne Duffy	January 22
Marilyn Jenkins	January 7	Mac Mathis	January 22
Valerie Espinoza	January 8	Beth Stengel	January 22
Leo Prudhomme	January 8	Gabriel Burgess	January 23
Kevin Kimberly	January 9	Aislinn Bowles	January 26
Colin Lynch	January 9	Isla Elliott	January 26
Samuel Morris	January 9	Little Mason Lesure	January 26
Sophie Duffel	January 10	Julie Cleary Dillon	January 27
Mary Harkins	January 11	Rebekah Rojcewicz	January 27
Sarah Stockwell	January 11	Matej Carlson	January 28
Nicholas Grover'	January 12	Kathleen Allos	January 29
Doug Johnson	January 13	Luke Barron	January 30
Daniel Poje	January 13	Erik Flettrich	January 31
Edward Baldwin	January 14	Jessica Flynt	January 31
George Espinoza	January 15	Audrey South	January 31
Duvall Watkins	January 15		

PARISH NEWS

December 29, 2024	8:30	11:00	5:15
Lector 1	Wayne Fuller	Gerry Taulman	Jeanine Blackwell
Lector 2	Dell Stiner	Marvin Stockwell	Donna McLellan
EMHCs	Judy Bettice Susan Prince Mike Stengel	Joe Birch Margaret Calicott	Louise Cayo
Cantor			
Musician			
Altar Servers	Gabe Burgess Dominic Burgess	Avery Kjellin	
Sacristan	Tracy Burgess	Connie Kjellin	Shannon Curtis
Flowers	Christmas		

January 5, 2024	8:30	11:00	5:15
Lector 1	John Wigley	Debra Brittenum	Louise Cayo
Lector 2	Sally Greene	Isaac Souza	Anita Houk
EMHCs	Dell Stiner Susan Prince Mike Stengel	Oneata "Winder Margaret Calicott	Jeanine Blackwell Donna McLellan
Cantor			
Musician			
Altar Servers	Jon Korneliussen Payton	Liam O'Connell	Zackary Tenorio
Sacristan	Shannon Curtis	Gene Mangiante	Chuck Blackwell
Flowers	Christmas		

ST. PATRICK PARISH STAFF

Rev. Dexter Noblefranca - Pastor
Fr.Dexter@stpat.cdom.org 901-527-2542 ext 106
 Shannon Curtis – Pastoral Assistant
shannon.curtis@stpat.cdom.org 901-308-6831
 Diego Parra – Music Director
diego.parra@stpat.cdom.org
 Julie Boland – Office Manager
julie.boland@stpat.cdom.org
 Stephen Juma – Director of Youth Ministry
stephen.juma@stpat.cdom.org
 Bambi Williams – Wedding Coordinator
bambi.williams@stpat.cdom.org
 Debbie and David Perry – Housekeeping
 Verna Hawkins – Housekeeping
ADULT FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR
 Judy Bettice – jbettice@earthlink.net
JOURNEY TO CATHOLICISM COORDINATOR
 Sally Greene – sbg1220@aol.com
ST. PATRICK OUTREACH CENTER
 Gene Mangiante – poppy@mangiante.com

ST. PATRICK PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Please contact any of these people with comments, suggestions, or offers of help!

Lester Brown	brownmmps69@bellsouth.net
Doan Dinh	doandinh2011@gmail.com
Sophie Duffel	sduffel901@gmail.com
Sandy Heiss	heisshouse@yahoo.com
Jan Kidder	jan.kidder62@gmail.com
Donna McLellan	d.ellis@mac.com
Hannah Schultz	hschultz@cbu.edu

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

Procedure for Reporting Sexual Abuse

Anyone who has knowledge of or who has cause to suspect an incident of sexual abuse should report the information to the appropriate civil authorities first at 1-877-237-0004, then to the Diocesan Director of Child & Youth Protection at 901-359-2027 or the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at 901-652-4066.