



Welcome to St. Louis Catholic Parish

Parish Mission Statement

We, the Roman Catholic Faith Community of St. Louis Parish, challenge ourselves to be loving and faithful stewards of God's gifts by living the Gospel of Jesus, by participating in worship and the lifelong process of Christian Formation, by striving to promote justice, forgiveness, dignity, and respect, and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, by continuing the good work that God has begun in each of us.

This booklet is designed to inform you about the many things that are offered here at St. Louis Parish. We have tried to list dates and times of all current organizations, committees, and Religious Education functions as of this printing. More than likely there will be changes to this schedule so please check the weekly bulletin or call the parish office for an update to this information.

Thank you!

St. Louis Catholic Church

13207 County Road G • Caledonia, WI 53108-9531

Office Hours: Monday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 262-835-4533 • Fax: 262-835-0421

Parish email: stlouis@wi.rr.com

Web page: www.stlouisparishwi.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/stlouisparishwi

Worship Schedule

St. Louis Mass times: Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

shared Pastor with St. Paul the Apostle, Racine, WI

St. Paul Mass times: Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays and Holy Days

Please consult the bulletin, the web page, or call the parish office.

Reconciliation

St. Louis: 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month after the 5:30 p.m. Mass

St. Paul the Apostle: 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 2:45 p.m.

Parish Staff

Rev. Yamid Blanco, Administrator
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Colleen Rooney, Director of
Youth Faith Formation
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<open position>, Director of
Child Faith Formation

Don Parmentier, Pastoral Musician

Greg Kawczynski, Maintenance

Brief History of St. Louis Parish

The earliest roots of St. Louis Parish can be traced back to 1843 and are, at least initially, intertwined with Holy Family Parish. In those early days, a zealous missionary and pioneer priest from Switzerland, the Very Rev. Martin Kundig, tended to the spiritual needs of the Catholic settlers in southeastern Wisconsin. On November 14, 1843, Mr. & Mrs. Francis Kuter deeded an acre of land at Highway 31 and Five Mile Road. A log church was built on this acre in 1844-45 and was named Holy Family Parish.

In 1845 representatives from the area met with the Bishop to discuss establishing a new parish and to determine a location for their church. They agreed on the north side of Highway G (the site of our present day St. Louis Cemetery). Mr. & Mrs. Peter Meyer generously presented one acre of land to the congregation on April 2, 1855 with an additional acre gifted on April 29, 1856. This congregation of St. Louis in Caledonia was formally organized in 1857.

There are indications that the log church built in 1844-45 on the Holy Family site was moved in 1855 to the land on the north side of Highway G. However, other records mention the building of a new log church "from logs that were hewn from the abundant forests." Whatever the origin, the small but primitive log church served well the spiritual needs of the parish. This log church did double duty becoming the parochial school during the week.

Holy Family was established as a mission of St. Louis in 1856. Holy Family Church was destroyed by fire in 1930 and only Holy Family Cemetery remains at that site today. St. John Nepomuk of Racine was also listed as a mission of St. Louis.

With the congregation ever growing, the one-room log building soon became inadequate. In 1857 it was replaced with a frame church. The cemetery was also on this site.

On March 27, 1859 the members of St. Louis Parish decided to erect an even more substantial frame church on the south side of Highway G. William Emmerich deeded two acres of land across from the cemetery on April 29, 1856 for this purpose. The cost of the building was \$1,009.51. This frame church stood undisturbed until plans were made to build the brick church on that site in 1901. The frame church was then moved to the southeast and served as a parish hall until it was razed in 1954 to accommodate the new school.

In 1860, St. Louis Parish received its first resident pastor, Rev. Kilian C. Flasch.

In 1901, the existing brick church was constructed. Much of the foundation of the church was excavated and built by local members of the parish on a volunteer basis. By 1957 there were nearly 400 families in the parish and approximately 185 children attending St. Louis School.

Building an addition connecting the two wings of the school created much-needed office space for both the parish and the school in 1993. Also a reception/gathering area and three all-purpose rooms were erected. A lower level was constructed that attached to the school hall to provide four more rooms and a storage area.

After having a school for the entire existence of the parish, St. Louis School was forced to close its doors in June 2005 due to low enrollment and lack of funding.

Sacramental Guidelines

Baptism

We welcome the child/children of registered, practicing Catholic parent(s)/ guardian(s) who have been member(s) of our parish for four months. Preparation includes an instructional session. Please call the parish office to register for a Baptism Preparation class and to schedule a baptism.

Weddings

A couple preparing for Christian marriage must contact the pastor at least nine months before their anticipated wedding date. We welcome registered and practicing Catholic(s). Couples must attend preparation sessions sponsored by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and St. Louis Parish. This is in accord with the Common Policy for marriage issued by the Catholic Bishops of the State of Wisconsin.

Faith Formation

Kindergarten through high school students of the parish are offered classes in the instruction of the Catholic Church teachings. These classes are offered during the months of September through May.

Preschool (ages 3 to 5) is held during the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Elementary (Kindergarten through 8th grade): held from 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

High School (grades 9 through 11): held from 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Sacraments are offered in the following grade levels:

First Reconciliation - Second grade
First Eucharist - Second grade
Confirmation - Eleventh grade

If you have any questions, please contact the Director of Child Faith Formation, the Director of Youth Faith Formation or the parish office.

Parish Committees, Ministries, Services, Events

Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council is a group of people chosen from and by the parish who, together with the parish priest, seek to fulfill the mission of the church by accepting the responsibility to guide; to determine the direction of the parish, and to oversee its pastoral activity and temporal affairs. The Pastoral Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

As the primary policy-formulating body of the parish, this group makes decisions for the parish by responding to the needs of the parishioners and discerning the will of God in a particular community of believers. The work of the Pastoral Council is focused by the parish mission statement and articulated in long- and short-range planning and goal-setting.

Finance Committee

The Finance Council carries out the work of the administrative services regarding the parish budget and the financial operation of the parish. They meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Building and Grounds Committee

Building and Grounds is the administrative services committee that oversees the physical conditions of parish property and its maintenance and upkeep. This committee identifies and articulates the physical needs of the parish grounds and makes recommendations to the Finance Committee. They meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Human Concerns Committee

The Human Concerns Committee discerns needs of people in the parish and the wider community, especially the poor. The committee identifies resources to meet those needs enlisting the active cooperation of parish members. They meet on an as needed basis – check the bulletin for dates and time.

Prayer and Worship Committee

The Prayer and Worship Committee nourishes and gives direction to the liturgical aspect of parish life. They ensure that the parishioners are provided with opportunities to deepen their faith through a variety of prayer experiences and liturgical celebrations. They meet as needed – check the bulletin for dates and time.

The Art and Environment Sub-Committee is the group that changes the environment in church during the different liturgical seasons of the year. Anyone who belongs to the parish is invited to join us in the change of decor during Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and the outdoor Festival Mass, plus other important liturgical events throughout the year.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Members of the parish meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to knit and crochet shawls, lap blankets, small baby blankets, and caps. This ministry has been started to provide a means to bring God's love, comfort, and peace to those in need. If you are interested in this beautiful and fulfilling ministry please join us. For more information please contact the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

Have you heard the call to "Come Follow Me?" Looking for answers? Curious? Want to know what it means to be Catholic? If you are a non-Catholic and are hearing the call or are just curious about the Catholic Faith, this is your chance to find some answers! Please call the parish office for more information.

Christian Formation Committee

Christian Formation is a lifelong process aimed at personal growth in faith. This sub-committee of the Pastoral Council advises educational administrators in the design, implementation, and evaluation of Christian Formational programs in the parish, which include sacramental preparation, adult and family ministry, youth ministry, and child ministry.

A goal of this committee is to promote activities involving parishioners of all ages as we learn about our Catholic faith.

They sponsor Religious Education classes for pre-school, elementary, and high school students, as well as some adult Religious Education classes, R.C.I.A., Tuesday morning Scripture Study, and other special events.

Parish Festival - Catch the Spirit!

The St. Louis Parish Festival is traditionally held during the third full weekend in August on Saturday evening and Sunday during the day and evening. It is more like a family picnic! It begins on Saturday with an outdoor mass at 5:00 p.m. Mass is followed by entertainment, children and adult games, rummage sale, silent auction, beer garden, and food of all types. Sunday begins at 11:00 a.m. with our country dinner, a continuation of the previous night's fun with the addition of a classic car show, crafts, and farmer's market booths, a voice auction, and raffles. Come join in the fun!

Parish Library

The St. Louis parish library is a wonderful resource of Catholic and Christian books, DVDs, CDs, and games. It is open after Sunday masses on sharing weekends, Religious Education Sundays; and during regular office hours. The library is located next to the parish office and is available to all parishioners.

SCRIP

SCRIP is a gift card you purchase for use in various stores. The SCRIP program is one of our "mutual service" fundraising programs. It costs you nothing extra but ensures a percentage of your purchase will be given to the parish. The most common SCRIP is for groceries, gasoline, restaurants, and department stores. SCRIP may be obtained after all of the weekend Masses or during normal business hours in the parish office. Please call the parish office for a complete list of the stores that participate.

Scripture Study

Scripture study is held on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Library.

St. Louis Cemetery Association

The Cemetery Committee ensures the proper guidelines and administration of the parish cemetery.

Music Ministry

Music is an integral part of worship at St. Louis Parish. We raise our voices to the Lord through a very special form of prayer - music. Our music department consists of different ministries: St. Louis choir, cantors, youth choir, instrumentalists, and the funeral choir. If you love expressing yourself through music, won't you please join our music ministry?

St. Louis Choir

The choir enhances our worship at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday liturgy. We may be heard singing preludes (music before the gathering hymn) or community meditations in various styles: contemporary, classical, gospel, or spiritual, and in general harmonies on hymnody. We have a very dedicated group of volunteers who put forth their best effort. The St. Louis Choir is one of the most beautiful sounding Racine area Catholic Church choirs. We are very family oriented, too. Many families have more than one member in the choir. Family members are able to sit with us in the choir loft on Sunday mornings. There is no entrance audition to the choir. Rehearsal is on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the church choir loft. Our season is from September to June.

Cantor

The cantor at St. Louis Parish is the song leader and psalmist (sings the responsorial psalm) at weekend liturgies and holy and feast day celebrations. Not only do the cantors sing at liturgies, but they prepare for them, too. Cantors meet as a group when all are learning new selections and in individual voice lessons to work on vocal technique and repertoire. They are also the congregation's "music teacher" for they teach the new music. Although this is the most challenging of the music ministries, it certainly can be very rewarding. If this is something that you would like to pursue, cantors meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. We schedule group and individual lessons so that you do not necessarily meet every Wednesday.

Youth Choir

Our youth choir graces us with their presence singing at one Sunday Mass a month (8:00 a.m.). The choir practices two Sundays a month in the church choir loft. They sing a variety of music but are focusing on Christian contemporary music.

Instrumentalist

This is someone who plays a musical instrument and enhances our worship through playing of hymns, acclamations, selections with the choir, and prelude music. There are many possibilities. How can you become an instrumentalist at St. Louis? Contact our Pastoral Musician, and they will try to make an individualized program for you by ordering or writing music for your particular instrument.

St. Louis Food Pantry

We have had a Food Pantry for approximately 40 years here at St. Louis. It started with "Project Emergency." A devoted group of volunteers staff the Food Pantry. Federal government guidelines are followed to determine whether someone qualifies for the program. A family receives approximately \$60 worth of groceries per month and does not need to be a parish member.

The Food Pantry is open every Monday afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call the parish office for holiday hours. If you would like more information or know of someone who might benefit, please call the parish office.

Sharing/Donut Weekend

On this weekend our parishioners bring non-perishable food items to church (or a monetary gift) that stocks our St. Louis Food Pantry. These donations are left in church on the side steps leading up to the altar.

The second full weekend of each month, we offer a friendship of coffee, juice, and donuts for our parishioners after all of the weekend Masses. Donut weekends are held in the Gathering Area. Be sure to come and enjoy a donut, coffee, or juice and some friendly conversation with fellow parishioners.

Circle of Love

Circle of Love takes place during Advent. Members of the Parish purchase Christmas gifts for those in need in the parish and in the community.

Knights of Columbus **Monsignor Dries Council 4831**

The Knights of Columbus Council 4831 was established October 10, 1959 at St. Louis Parish. The Council services both St. Louis Parish and St. Sebastian Parish. The Council meets at 8:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at St. Louis.

The Knights of Columbus has four degrees of membership. They start off with the 1st Degree installation called "Charity." The Knights perform various acts of charity, including the famous Tootsie Roll Drive which raises monies for learning disabled persons. They donate money for various church drives and projects for both St. Louis and St. Sebastian. Monies are also raised for people in need.

After the 1st Degree of "Charity", the Knights go into the 2nd Degree called "Unity" in which all the Brother Knights work together for goals set for the Council.

The 3rd Degree is called "Fraternity" since Brother Knights are a fraternal organization looking after each other. Several social events are held throughout the fraternal year.

The 4th Degree is the "Patriotic" arm of the order, in which all members are installed in an Assembly. The Racine Assembly is Monsignor Weiler Assembly 1207. The 4th Degree Assembly also provides the Honor Guard for various events such as corporate communion, rosary rallies, funerals, and events honoring the clergy.

The Knights of Columbus also has an excellent insurance program providing several financial programs for its Brother Knights. For information on the insurance program or on joining the Order, you may contact the headquarters toll-free at 1-800-925-KOFC. They will refer you to the current local leader.