

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, October 6**

**6:00 p.m.**  
Crinny and Bill Stich (L)

**Sunday, September 7**

**8:00 a.m.**  
St. Louis Parish  
**10:30 a.m.**  
Betsy Woodard and family (L)

**Tuesday, October 9**

**6:00 p.m.**  
Maureen Busch (D)

**Wednesday, October 10**

**8:30 a.m.**  
Christopher and Jeannine Busch (L)

**Thursday, October 11**

**6:00 p.m.**  
Leo McNamara (D)

**Friday, October 12**

**8:30 a.m.**  
Bob Schmidt (D)

**Saturday, October 13**

**6:00 p.m.**  
Meredith Thompson (L)

**Sunday, October 14**

**8:00 a.m.**  
Patricia Silva (D)  
**10:30 a.m.**  
St. Louis Parish



*THE PASTOR'S PEN*

Dear Parish Family,  
The readings this weekend give us much to think, and pray about. They also challenge us in a world that often ridicules us, for believing and holding to what is right, good and true.

God teaches us about our sexuality that it is good; it is an intrinsic part of his design for us human beings. In the early centuries of Christianity, one of the most persistent threats to the life of the Church was heresy. Heresies are, simply, teachings that agreed with true Christian doctrine on most points, but contradicted Christ's true teaching on one or two other key points. One of the most poisonous early heresies was Gnosticism. Gnosticism was dualistic; it taught that there were two gods, one good and one evil. The good god, according to the Gnostics, was pure spirit, and he created our souls. The evil god, called the Demiurge, was the source of all material things, and he had trapped our spiritual souls inside our material bodies. According to this view everything material was evil, and only spiritual things were good. You can imagine what this heresy thought about marriage and human sexuality. They considered marriage a sin and every sexual impulse or activity intrinsically evil. Of course they also denied the doctrine of the incarnation and the validity of the sacraments, because these too involved material things as part of God's plan of salvation. This heresy was especially dangerous because it was used as a clever excuse to justify every kind of self-indulgence. After all, if our bodies are just prisons for our souls, and not really connected to our true identity, then it doesn't matter what we do with them. So the Gnostics not only forbade and despised marriage, they also gave a green light to promiscuity and every other kind of sexual indulgence. In that sense, it was similar to the view present in our own popular culture that encourages people to follow whatever their instincts tell them to follow when it comes to their sexuality. But Gnosticism was condemned by the Church, energetically and consistently. The material world is not evil; it comes from the mind and heart of God. Our bodies and the sexuality inherent in them are not evil; they are part of who we are as human beings created out of love in God's own image and likeness. So that's the first thing God wants us to

understand about human sexuality: it is part of his plan for our lives, a beautiful, powerful part of his plan. The third essential truth God wants to communicate to us about our sexuality is what we are supposed to do with it.

Sexual intimacy, in God's plan, has a real, specific purpose: it is meant to be a language of love between spouses. In other words, it is a form of communicating and mutual self-giving that is proper only within marriage – a life-long commitment between a man and woman open to forming a new family. This is what is meant when Genesis tells us: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh."

And just in case we don't understand it completely, Jesus emphasizes that this union of spouses is exclusive and permanent – it is a lifelong commitment and adventure between one man and one woman: "So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate." The two become one: marriage is between one man and one woman. They are one flesh: it is a union of persons, a bond that cannot be broken or undone unless one of the two dies, just as the child who comes forth from this union cannot be "undone." This explains the Church's teaching on divorce and remarriage. It is easy to misunderstand this teaching, to claim that annulments are just a Catholic form of divorce. But in fact the two are quite different. Divorce and remarriage claims that a true marital bond was really formed, then broken, and then another one formed. But an annulment is a recognition that from the beginning something actually obstructed the formation of the marital bond, so that the spousal union of persons never really occurred. In that case, a person is still free to marry, to make the exclusive, permanent union with someone else.

Peace to you and yours,  
*Fr. Stevens*

**ATTENTION**

After consultation of the Parish Council, and hearing the desires of many in the parish for an earlier Mass time, the **Saturday Vigil Mass will move from 6:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Confessions will then be on Saturday from 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

The Flower Ministry is an important part of creating a beautiful environment for worship. Would you like to donate money for flowers for a special weekend? Your donation could be in remembrance of a loved one or a special occasion in your life. Call the office to reserve a date and get details.

**TIME / TALENT / TREASURE**

October 13/14

**Extraordinary Ministers  
Of Holy Communion**

6:00 p.m. T. Gorham, J. Larson  
8:00 a.m. L. Ogbodo, T. Cross  
10:30 a.m. D. Jacobs, K. Onokpise

**Lectors**

6:00 p.m. C. Morris, E. Hawkins  
8:00 a.m. J. Piotrowski, S. Ball  
10:30 a.m. D. Busch, R. Patterson

**Sacristans**

6:00 p.m. J. Larson.  
8:00 a.m. M. D'Souza  
10:30 a.m. L. Davis

**Altar Servers**

6:00 p.m. (Open), (Open)  
8:00 a.m. V. Nguyen, (Open)  
10:30 a.m. J. Angulo, S. Berrien

**Liturgical Assistants**

6:00 p.m. J. Mueller  
8:00 a.m. G. Brown  
10:30 a.m. P. Johnston

**For Sunday, September 30**

Offertory this week:	\$4,097.00
Target:	\$3,772.89
Collected vs Target for month	\$6,214.12
Collected vs Target since July	\$11,648.00
Projected Offertory for year:	\$298,340.79
Annual Budget:	\$250,000.00

Building Fund this week:	\$290.00
Collected this month:	\$2,886.00
Target for the month:	\$2,713.00
Collected since July 1:	\$8,433.00
Collected vs Target since July 1:	\$294.00

Improvements Collections:	\$4.00
Total collected to date:	\$1,445.00

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT**

This ministry is helping us improve the look and upkeep of our parish! Our goal for the year is \$11,000. To date we have collected \$1,761.50. Monthly Movie Nights support this campaign. Car wash gift card sales support our efforts! Aluminum can sales also add to this account!

**St. Louis Catholic Church  
Invites You to Join Us for Our  
Outdoor Mass and Fall Festival**

**Sunday, October 14**  
(Noon until 3:00 p.m.)  
Outdoor Mass at 10:30 a.m.  
\*(Weather Permitting)  
(Bring Your Own Chair/Blanket)  
**Arts/Crafts/Vendor Booths**  
**Silent Auction Items**  
Bid on themed baskets, gift certificates, jewelry, and several other unique items!  
**FREE Kids Activities**  
Including bounce house, duck pond, fishing booth, pumpkin toss, face painting, and more  
There also will be food, music, a Cake Walk, and lots of fun!  
Contact Sheila Pereira at 445-1291 for more information

**DAY OF RENEWAL FOR 101ST**

**ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA**

Saturday, October 13th. Mass at 8:30 a.m. with the first talk following Mass. Come to St. Louis to honor Our Lady of Fatima and learn more about her spouse, the Holy Spirit, in our everyday life. Lunch is provided. RSVP to Gloria Lay, [glomarielay@gmail.com](mailto:glomarielay@gmail.com)

**CONGRATULATIONS**

\*Volunteer of the Month for October is **Terry Cross**. We appreciate all you do for St. Louis.

**FALL FESTIVAL UPDATES**

\*Please stop by the tables out front to **sign-up** to help at the Fall Festival. We still need helpers in several areas and encourage all Parishioners to give of your time/talent/treasure in some way. Our goal is to have enough coverage so everyone can enjoy the festival!  
\*We are still seeking donations of the following items up until October 7: CANNED Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Barg's Root Beer, and

cases of water, Gently used items for our White Elephant Shelves or books for our Bargain Book Table Silent Auction baskets/items – We currently have 25 but our goal is 50! This is our biggest money maker at the Festival so help us out! (It can be as simple as a gift card) Items for the Kid's table's raffle – any new toy/item that a kid might want to "bid on"

\*If you have a pop up tent we can use the day of the Festival, let us know. We want to make sure we have as much shade as possible for our outside eating/sitting area.

\*The Sisterhood is selling tickets for their annual blanket raffle so get your tickets when you sign up outside. This year's blanket is a beautiful design with lots of Moose on it. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

**FARM SHARE**

Our Parish gives a special "thank you" to each participant who gave time and energy to make our Farm Share a successful event.

**HOMELESS SHELTER**

Many thanks to all who consistently give generously, and put food and supplies, in the "gray bin" for our community's homeless members.

This monthly ministry guarantees a healthy meal to over 250 adults, on the 1st Saturday of each month, at the Kearney Center. Keep up the good works, St Louis!

*Mary Balkcom and Brenda Mueller*

**CHOIR**

"Adult Choir practice is Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Please come and sing with us! No prior music experience necessary. E-mail questions or concerns to [pjwilford@gmail.com](mailto:pjwilford@gmail.com)."