



Order of Malta American Association Missouri Area NEWSLETTER December, 2025

Chaplain's Column

The Prophet Isaiah in the Midst of the Advent Season

The holy season of Advent highlights for our consideration key individuals in the economy of salvation. Most prominent of course is Our Blessed Mother; however, there are other key figures during this sacred time of waiting and anticipation to whom we should look. One of those figures is the Prophet Isaiah.

The Prophet Isaiah figures largely in the rhythm and progression of the Advent Season. In fact, his writings are referred to as the “5th gospel” because of the Christological overtones of his prophecy. Isaiah is the most often quoted Old Testament prophet in the gospels.

Recall the first reading of the Mass for the First Sunday of Advent from the Book of Isaiah the Prophet. Who exactly was Isaiah? This prophet was born and lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century BC. He was born into a noble, priestly family; his father was Amoz. In the Talmudic tradition, Amoz too was a prophet. Isaiah had a wife and two sons. Isaiah’s name in Hebrew means: “Salvation of the Lord.”

The Prophet is called by Almighty God in a dramatic way. Isaiah describes how he had a vision of Almighty God seated upon his throne in the Temple surrounded by seraphim with six wings. He is overcome by the sight and is stricken with grief. Cognizant of his own sin-

fulness and unworthiness before God, Isaiah exclaims: “Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!” (Isaiah 6:5)

At this juncture, an angel approaches Isaiah and touches his lips with a burning ember to cleanse him and prepare him for the mission that The Lord has for him.

Isaiah chronicles God’s words: “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” (Isaiah replies) “Here I am, send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

It was at this time that the Israelites had turned away from God and resorted to the worship of idols and false gods. Isaiah urges the people to turn from their evil ways and return to the worship of the one true God. In his long ministry (some scholars claim almost 50 years!) Isaiah exhorts and attempts to convince the kings of Juda to refrain from alliances with other nations and rely totally upon the God of Israel. Isaiah’s message is a message of Divine retri-

tribution for all of the evils the nation has perpetrated.

Isaiah said to King Hezekiah: “Hear the word of the Lord of Hosts! The time is coming when all that is in your house, everything that your ancestors have stored up, shall be carried off to Babylon; nothing shall be left!” (Isaiah 39:5-6)



Monsignor James J. Ramacciotti

Yet, Isaiah's words are not without hope and a firm belief that God will be true to his word and fulfill his promises to Israel – and to us!

But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

In subsequent chapters (52 and 53) Isaiah characterizes the Messiah as the "Suffering Servant" who atones for the iniquities of his people. Furthermore, in Chapter 61, Isaiah narrates the Messiah restoring God's people and freeing them from bondage.

Obviously, it would have been far beyond Isaiah's wildest imagining that the Messiah would actually be the Son of God! His words so beautifully convey the sublime truths of who Jesus is and what his mis-

sion is, not only for Israel but for all of humanity. Jesus Christ IS the Messiah – the Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:5)

The writings of the prophet give evidence to the fact that all of Sacred Scripture is Christocentric; all of scripture points to Jesus, the Lamb who was slain.

The words of Isaiah confirm that God has a plan for us all! Isaiah's message is a proclamation of hope and trust in God's promise.

May Isaiah's message give each of us hope and solace during this Holy Advent Season! May his words remind each of us that we are called to live the Beatitudes and the eight virtues of our Order exemplified in our eight-pointed cross! Finally, may the words of the prophet Isaiah stir in our hearts a renewed zeal to protect the Faith and serve the poor and sick!

Blessed Advent!!

Area Chairs' Update

A Good Year

The past summer has been a good one for our Order of Malta, Missouri Area.

Our ongoing ministries, as listed in our annual calendar, continue to thrive. Also, in response to a fire that devastated a Criminal Justice Ministry apartment building, we donated \$5,000 from our Area funds to help rebuild the facility. CJM provides apartments for those recently released from prison, and for 2 years helps these men reenter society. We also donated \$5,000 to the Haiti Packing Project, which was held at Chaminade College Preparatory School. A large group of volunteers, including several from our Malta family, assembled 95,760 nutritious food packets for distribution to the poor in northern Haiti.

When our national government recently shut down, and SNAP benefits were suspended, Criminal Justice Ministry issued an appeal for food.

Our Area donated \$5,250 in Aldi grocery store gift cards, which amounted to \$150 for each of the 35 clients in need.

In July we held a meeting for anyone interested in joining the Order of Malta. Initially 47 people expressed interest, and 31 attended the meeting. We now have 5

candidates to be invested in 2026, and one person plans to apply as an Associate. Many thanks to all our Knights and Dames who invited people to consider joining our Order, as well as to those who organized and participated in the meeting.

On November 14, 2025 we had six new Knights and Dames invested into the Order of Malta:

Dr. James Coyle

Mrs. Cynthia Coyle

Mr. Richard Esswein

Dr. John Richart

Mrs. Anne Richart

Dr. Thomas Schneider, II

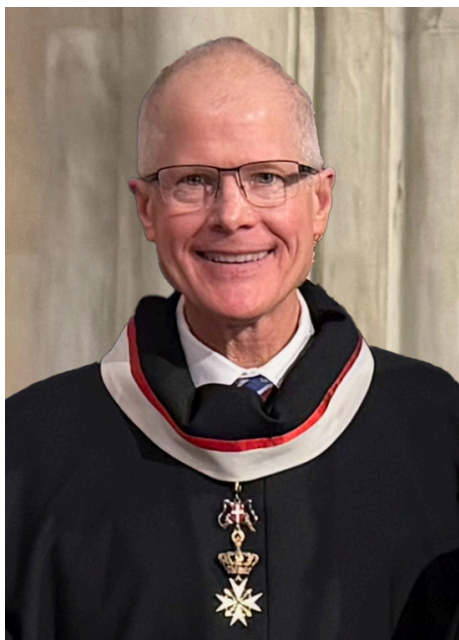
We welcome them to our Missouri Area Malta family!

Thank you to all who participated in our Missouri Area worship, service, and fellowship activities this year. I especially thank those who are involved in leadership roles.

May God continue to guide us in our efforts to both defend the faith and serve our lords the sick and poor, and may our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Philermo sustain us.

Helen and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a most Blessed New Year.

—Michael E. McCadden Sr., MD, KM



Mike McCadden, K.M.

Serving the Sick and the Poor

Malta Mobile Ministry

In the last year, Malta Mobile Ministry—St. Louis had assisted many agencies serving the sick and the poor, including,

Ascension/St. Nicholas Food Pantry (addressing hunger and food insecurity)

Cardinal Ritter Senior Services (assistance to the elderly)

Our Lady's Inn (helping women in crisis pregnancies and their families)

St. Joseph Housing Initiative (long-term housing assistance)

St. Monica Catholic Church (our host parish)

St. Patrick Center (services for the homeless and others)

St. Louis Criminal Justice Ministry (services for those recently released from prison)

St. Louis Crisis Nursery (assistance for families in crises, especially in the Hispanic community)

St. Pius V Food Pantry

In co-operation with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, it also helped stock,

Christ the King Food Pantry

Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Pantry

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Food Bank

St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry

St. Augustine Food Pantry

Thanks to the initiative shown by Larry Koesterer, K.M. Malta Mobile Ministry was also able to assist groups carrying out relief operations after the tornado in May.

Eight drivers took the wheel, sometimes making more than one run in a single day. We would be happy to add more active drivers to the roster!



Malta Mobile Dirver with Cardinal Ritter Senior Services Client

Housing Initiative

The Missouri Area was part of a four-way collaboration between Order of Malta Mobile Ministries, St. Joseph Housing Initiative (SJHI), Home Sweet Home (HSH), and St. Mary's High School to prepare affordable homes for families. SJHI, founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and supported by the Archdiocese of St. Louis, seeks to create vibrant communities through affordable quality housing where low- and moderate-income families can thrive, prosper and build wealth. HSH is a furniture bank that partners with under-served individuals



Malta Mobile Driver Larry Koesterer, K.M., with Crew



Malta Mobile Driver Larry Koesterer, K.M., with Crew

and families to furnish their homes, creating spaces that support stability, comfort and dignity. Thanks to transportation provided by the Order of Malta Missouri Area and loading and unloading work by St. Mary's students, houses renovated by SJHI have been furnished from Home Sweet Home's collections and are ready to welcome the families who will live in them.

Summer Service Project

The Missouri Area devoted its third quarter service project to the food pantry run by the St. Pius V Parish conference of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul in the City of St. Louis. Led by hospitalers Larry Koesterer and Jonathan Klimpel, Malta members donated, collected, and delivered more than 150 cases of the product most in demand at the pantry—cooking oil, liquid detergent, and hygiene items, which were transported by Malta Mobile Ministries. Members stayed to help staff the pantry after delivery. Thanks these efforts, the shelves were fully stocked with these basic items through July and August. In a letters of thanks, the president of the Pius V St. Vincent de Paul says that he found Malta's "generosity overwhelming."



Staff of the St. Pius V Food Pantry with Malta Van



Missouri Hospitalers Larry Loesterer and Jonathan Klimpel

Food for Haiti

In Haiti, anarchy and gang rule have caused an economic collapse. The resulting extreme inflation has put the price of food out of reach of many families. To help people deal with the wide-spread food insecurity in the country, Knights, Dames and family members from the Missouri Area of the Order recently participated in the Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name Packathon at Chaminade College Preparatory School in St. Louis. Together with hundreds of other volunteers from throughout the St. Louis area, 100,000 meals were packaged for delivery to Hopital Sacre Coeur, in Milot, Haiti, to provide to starving men, women and children. The hospital is the largest in the north of Haiti and is operated by Haiti Health Promise (formerly the Crudem Foundation). The hospital's continuing service to the poor and sick is in no small part due to the efforts by two members from the Missouri Area, Dr. Bill Guyol, MD, KM, and Tom Schlafly, Esq, KM, who have served on the board of directors for Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name for many years.



The Malta Missouri Team at the Haiti Health Promise of Holy Name Packathon



Malta Members at work at the Packathon

Housing for Men Rebuilding their Lives

The Missouri Area of the Order of Malta recently participated in a St. Louis Criminal Justice Ministry (CJM) apartment cleaning. CJM, as part of their “Foundations First Housing Programs” has numerous apartments throughout the St., Louis area to provide housing for men recently released from incarceration. Designed to support a gradual and sustainable transition, the program offers individuals the time and resources needed to heal, grow, and rebuild their lives. By fostering personal development and independence, clients are assisted to successfully reintegrate into society with confidence and stability. Men released from prison are able to access immediate housing the day of release, with supportive services that include a fully furnished one-bedroom apartment with all necessities for independent living. In the transition period between residents, the apartments are cleaned by volunteers to provide a clean, welcoming environment for the next resident.



Larry Koesterer, KM, with CJM Volunteers

Service Prayer of the Order of Malta

Our Father, we thank You for calling us to stand before You and to serve You within the great family of the Order of Malta. In our desire to follow Jesus, Your Son, and through the intercession of Our Lady of Philermo, we humbly ask You for:

Faith, that we may recognize His presence in the poor;

Wisdom and the right words to bear witness to and defend the faith;

Charity that leads us to serve, through concrete works, our Lords the Poor and the Sick.

Help us to remain faithful to You and to one another. Grant us this day firm trust in Your presence and action in our world, and the courage to make Your Kingdom grow in the hearts of people and in our society.

All the Saints of the Order, pray for us! Amen.

Our Lady of Champion Pilgrimage

Several Missouri Area members, including Michael McCadden, MD, KM, Michael Weisbrod, KM, Mike Albers, KM, Donna Albers, DM, Larry Koesterer, KM, and David Corrick, Associate, took part in the 2025 Annual Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Wisconsin. The three-day pilgrimage, which was sponsored by the three Order of Malta Associations in the United States, began with Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier in Green Bay, with the Most Rev. David Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, acting as principal celebrant. Masses were also celebrated at the Apparition Oratory and Mother of Mercy Hall at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. The pilgrimage included a visit to the National Shrine of St. Joseph in Des Pere, WI, where there was a celebration of the Holy Mass, with a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. The final day of the pilgrimage took place at the Champion shrine, with Rosary Procession, Mass with Anointing of the Sick, and Vigil Mass, and included an excellent reflection by the Very Reverend John Girotti entitled, “Look Up! Christian Hope at Mass.” Members of the Missouri Area helped staff the “Malta Mobile Ministries” showcase at the ministry fair during the pilgrimage.



**Michael McCadden, Michael Weisbrod, David Corrick, and Larry Koesterer
during the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion**

Rosary Outreach Ministry Update

Since our last update (May 2025) ROM has grown significantly with several “wins” for Our Lady in our effort to bring spiritual welfare to the sick and the poor.

After a summer hiatus, we received a new shipment of rosaries. The first “win” came in late August, and it came due to a chance meeting. Donna Albers was in Chicago visiting family. After mass at St. Edward’s Church, Donna began a conversation with Sr. Bernadette from the Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Mary’s Home. As a result of this chance encounter or perhaps Divine Providence, we provided Sr. Bernadette and her team 100 rosaries for their very vibrant rosary group.

The second win came shortly thereafter, through the work of ROM member, Ray Kreienkamp, who contacted Fr. Dan Mauro at St. James Academy High School in Lenexa, Kansas. Fr. Dan is in the process of starting a rosary group for his school, and we were able to assist in the effort by sending him 40 of our Malta rosary kits.

Win number three came with the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Again, through the efforts of Ray, we provided Fr. Charlie Archer 15 Malta rosary kits. Fr. Archer will be using them primarily for the efforts he leads at the abortion clinic on Lindell Ave. When his team gathers to pray for the unborn, they will be doing so with the Malta rosaries in hand.

Ray has also been successful distributing rosaries to St. Joseph Academy and St. Louis University High School. These rosaries will be used for Sodality of Mary groups, rosary groups and school retreats.

And to add to this good streak of fortune, Mari de Villa in Town and Country has wanted to start a rosary group for some time, but had no one to lead this effort. Since October, Malta has now been leading rosary sessions every Tuesday morning at 11AM. The most recent rosary had 15 fellow prayer warriors!

At this time, our “scorecard” is looking pretty good. Since our beginning in January, 2025, we have contacted 21 different organizations. These organizations are nursing homes, rehab centers and schools. We have helped bring Mary to people in Missouri, Illinois and Kansas. There are now 16 active rosary groups who are regularly praying the rosary with over 400 Malta rosaries in their hands.

We are always open to suggestions of possible rosary groups who may want Malta rosaries. Also, we currently have a **need** for a rosary leader at a nursing home in Chesterfield. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact a member of the ROM team; Ray Kreienkamp, Will Remmele, Mike Albers or Donna Albers. —Donna Albers



Mike & Donna Albers during the Pilgrimage

Worship and Fellowship

St. John's Day 2025

In celebration of St. John's Day, members of the Missouri Area of the Order of Malta joined with Knights and Dames of the Northern Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for Mass at Christ Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski and the area's chaplains. The Holy Eucharist was followed by a dinner at the Bellerive Country Club, at which H.E. Michele Bowe, the Order of Malta's ambassador to the Palestinian State, presented a medal commemorating the 100,000th birth at the Holy Family Hospital, to Archbishop Rozanski in recognition of his support of the hospital's work. The following day, Ambassador Bowe met a large number of people from across the St. Louis area at a reception organized by Mike Heck, who serves on the board of the Holy Family Hospital and gave an insightful update of the current situation in the Holy Land and its effect on the work of the Holy Family Hospital.



After the St. John's Day Mass with the EOHSJ



Amb. Bowe and Mike and Phyllis Heck Congratulate Archbishop Rozanski

Evensong for Feast of Blessed Gerard

On October 14, Members of the Missouri Area of the Order of Malta joined members of the St. Louis Region of the Order of St. John for an evensong in celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Gerard at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Ladue. The service was sung by an octet from the church's choir under the direction of organist David Sinden, and members of the Order of Malta served as lectors. The service was followed by a reception hosted by Mrs. Jane Gleason, at which members of the two orders renewed their bonds of friendship and discussed efforts towards their common goal of defending the faith and serving the sick and the poor.



**2025 St. Louis Evensong for the Feast of the Blessed Gerard
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue**



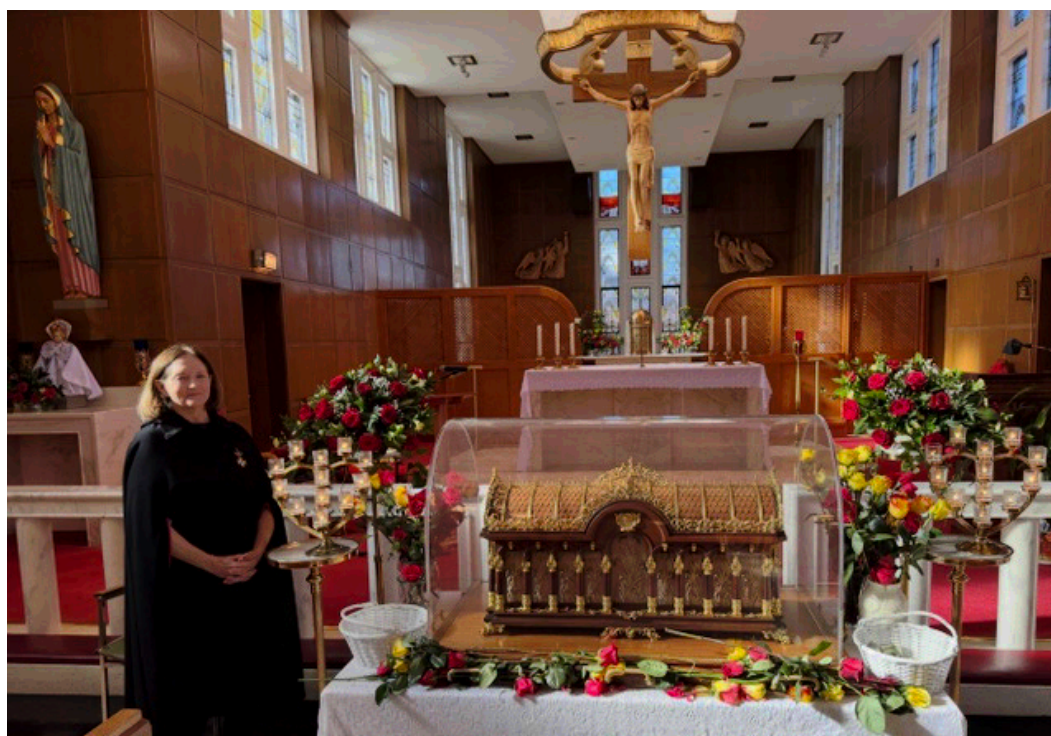
**Jonathan Klimpel, MStJ, KM & Patricia Amato, MD, DM
Lectors at St. Louis Blessed Gerard Evensong**

Honor Guard for Relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux

Missouri Area members of the Order of Malta recently served as Honor Guards for the relics of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. At the invitation of the Provincial Superior of the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus, 16 knights and dames stood watch on the night of November 9 and throughout December 10 beside a reliquary containing some of the saint's bones while it lay in response at St. Agnes Home in St. Louis. Malta members are regular visitors to St. Agnes home, where they have often assisted with bingo games for the residents and joined them and the sisters for mass in the chapel where they now stood vigil.



A Knight and Dame Stand as Guard of Honor While Relics of St. Thérèse are Reverenced



Helen McCadden with the Reliquary

2025 American Association Investiture

In November many members of the Missouri Area took part in the event that culminated in the Investiture of Knights and Dames at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. Those events included a special visit to the exhibition of objects from the treasury of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, several moving talks, a dinner for members and friends of the Missouri Area at the University Club, and a brunch with an update of the work of the Holy Family Hospital in Behlehem, in addition to the the mass as which new members robes were blessed and the investiture mass itself.



David Corrick, Larry Koesterer, Rich Esswein, Mary Ann Esswein, Greg Gantz, Thomas Schneider II MD (Tom), Kathy Gants, Ray Kreienkamp, Abp. Rozanski, Michael Weisbrod, Helen McCadden, John Richart MD, Anne Richart MD, Mike McCadden MD, Liloyd Noble II, Patricia Amato MD, Brian Abel Ragen PhD, Cynthia Coyle (Cindy), James Coyle, MD (Jim)



Detail from a Chalice in the Exhibition of Treasures from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at the Frick Collection

2025 St. Louis Advent Mass

On December 3, Missouri Area Knights, Dames and affiliates gathered for an Advent Mass and dinner. The Mass, at St. Clement of Rome Church, was celebrated by St. Louis Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, with concelebrants Msgr. Vernon Gardin, ChM, PhD, Msgr. James Ramacciotti, ChD, Pastor of St. Clement of Rome Parish, and the Reverend Thomas Keller, Pastor of Assumption - Mattese Parish in St. Louis and an Associate in the Order.

During the dinner at the St. Louis Club after Mass, Mike Heck, KM, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, and a member of the Missouri Area, gave an update on Holy Family Hospital and the situation in the surrounding area of the Holy Land.

— Larry Koesterer



Missouri Area Members with Archbishop Rozanski after the Advent Mass



Mike Heck, Archbishop Rozanski, Christopher Winkelmann, & Mike McCadden

2025 Missouri Area Leadership

Area Co-Chairs: Helen and Mike McCadden

**Area Chaplains: Abp. Mitchel Mitchell Rozanski, Msgr. Vernon Gardin,
and Msgr. James Ramacciotti**

Hospitallers: Jonathan Klimpel and Larry Koesterer

Membership: Chris Winkelmann

Treasurer: Bill Guyol

Affiliate Coordinators (Associates and Auxiliary): Chad Briesacher

Communications: Brian Abel Ragen

Malta Masses: Donna and Mike Roth

Prison Ministry: Pat Hofmeister and Michael Weisbrod

Grant Committee: Tyler Bender, Don Gunn, and Carole Less

Malta Rosary (first Wednesday): Pat Amato Kreienkamp and Ray Kreienkamp

Daily Devotional Mailings: Carole Less

Defense of Faith: Donna and Mike Albers

MALTA MOBILE MINISTRY—ST. LOUIS

Director: Mike Roth

Financial Accountability and Operations Coordinator: Randy Weber

Program and Services Coordinator: Chris Winkelmann

Volunteer Driver Coordinator: Brian Abel Ragen

Vehicle Maintenance Coordinators: Randy Weber

Communications: Jim Bick