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# Blessed Sacrament

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### Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.

**Sunday Mass: 10:00AM**

**Reconciliation: 1st Sunday 9:30AM**

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Rector: Fr. Jerry Riney, [jerry.riney@pastoral.org](mailto:jerry.riney@pastoral.org)

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jamie Dennis,  
[james.dennis@pastoral.org](mailto:james.dennis@pastoral.org)

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Jeannette Fennwald, SSND  
[jeannette.fennwald@pastoral.org](mailto:jeannette.fennwald@pastoral.org)



### Third Sunday of Advent December 11, 2016

Those whom the LORD has ransomed  
will return and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The barren deserts will rejoice and flower. Tired bodies will receive strength. Aching hearts will be made glad (Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10).

**Psalms** — Lord, come and save us (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Be patient, for the coming of the Lord is as sure as the rain (James 5:7-10).

**Gospel** — Tell of what you hear and see: The blind regain their vision, the crippled their movement, the deaf their hearing (Matthew 11:2-11).



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### Lectors

Dec. 18: Diane Hatchett  
Sylvia Coleman

Dec. 25: Marsha Allen  
Adaira Hatchett

### Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 18: Karen Leachman  
Payton Sanford  
Misty Sanford

Dec. 25: Charlene Meadows  
Vivian Higgs  
Greg Gough

### Ushers:

Dec. 18: Matthew Brown  
Buddy Brown

Dec. 25: Gough Family

### Offertory

Dec. 18: Matthew Brown  
Buddy Brown

Dec. 25: Gough Family

*We are rich in the things that perish, but  
poor in the things of the Spirit.*

*We are rich in gadgets, but poor in faith.*

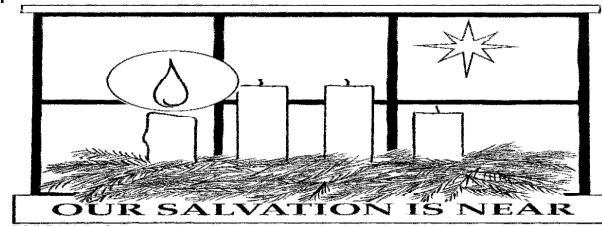
*We are rich in goods, but poor in grace.*

*We are rich in know-how, but poor in character.*

*We are rich in words, but poor in deeds.*

### **“What did you go out into the desert to see?” Matthew 11:2-11**

After his arrest John the Baptist sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” John knew his time to lead them was coming to an end. Jesus simply tells them to report what they saw and heard. Jesus then proclaims the greatness of John, but assures those who acknowledge their sin and repent, who understand and have the faith to imitate what He said and did, will enter the Kingdom of God and be greater than John during his sojourn on earth. It is up to each of us who do our best to learn about Jesus, to be like Jesus, to love like Jesus, and to risk all like Jesus by loving God and our neighbor as ourselves. That is certainly something to desire. It is something to prepare for. It is something to strive for. We can do that by reading the nativity stories in Matthew and Luke before we hear them proclaimed during the Christmas Masses. Reflect on the meaning of God made Man, born in a cave, who is the Prince of Peace. Reflect on how we can be more like Jesus.



## **IMP—Kroger Update**

Each August Kroger requires all **supporters to re-enroll**.  
..Go to [www.Kroger.com](http://www.Kroger.com) Click the blue Sign in tab at the top of the page. Enter your email address and password and click the blue Sign-in tab. From the department menu, click Community and then Community Rewards. From Community Rewards, click on the Edit or Re-enroll button. Find Organization. Select Organization. Save Your selection. Questions call 1-800-KROGERS

### **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

When the ties of affection and authority that bound Europe’s Catholics unraveled in the sixteenth century, many cultures lost time-honored customs of faith. Some customs proved to be especially difficult for the reformers to wrest away from the people, especially those celebrated in the home. This week in Sweden, a country where the Catholic Church was disestablished four hundred years ago, a Catholic martyr from Sicily is the most beloved figure. St. Lucia, Lucy, is celebrated on December 13. The long-story-short is that Lucy was a Christian whose father wanted to marry her off to a pagan fellow, and she rejected her father’s authority. To make an example of her, her father had her killed. In the course of the brutal martyrdom, Lucy lost her beautiful eyes, but her vision was miraculously restored. The candles worn today by the eldest daughter of the family are tokens of the fire that refused to harm the saint. So this patroness of light and clear vision is revered on the shortest, darkest days of the Nordic winter. Before the reform of the Gregorian calendar in the sixteenth century, December 13 was the winter solstice.

Today, young girls appear in the morning wearing lighted candles on their crowned heads (battery-operated now after many mishaps), and serve sweet rolls and coffee to everyone in the house. For the Swedes, who are not churchgoers, the “Lucias” are the official heralds of the holiday season and a sign of everyone’s yearning for more light in this world. Europe once abounded with customs like this; the survival of this custom in Scandinavia is a sign of God’s grace, and how fertile the soil is to receive the true message of Advent.

### ***Our thoughts and prayers are with:***

**SICK:** Beverly Chilton, Carol Hatchett, Philip Moorman, Sr., Martha Bellew, Jim Moorman, Bernice Williams, Charlene Meadows, Sarah Bumm, Yvonne Hatchett, Birdie Coleman, Dorothy Fulton, Louise Johnson, Larry Allen, Betty Clark, Phillip Moorman, Jr., Linda McDonald **If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

**THE HOMEBOUND:** Stan Howard at Bishop Soennecker Home, Knottsville, Donald Moorman room 40 at Wellington Park, 2885 New Hartford Rd, Maggie Howard at Twin River Nursing Center, A phone call or a card can cheer the homebound if you can’t visit.

### **Men, Mark Your Calendars**

Diocesan Men’s Conference at River Park Center February 11, 2017.

Cardinal Dolan is the speaker—excellent! Entertaining and inspirational.

### **Thank you to...**

Our faithful money counters: Janet Clark, Diana Wells, Steve and Becky Coble. Appreciate your service.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

Youth 2000 will be held at the Owensboro Convention Center March 10-12.

Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel:

- December**
- ♦ 18 Christmas gathering (after Mass) Santa, Church decorating. Caroling,
  - ♦ 24 Christmas Mass 7 PM  
Christmas Music 6:30 PM
- January**
- ♦ 1 10 AM Mass followed by Kwanzaa
- February**
- ♦ 12 Ladies of Wisdom Tea

Opportunity for Youth

Drama Club beginning this January , 2017. The Kentuckiana Players is welcoming both middle and high school students to be part of their spring 2017 production. Get the Giggles with Shakespeare: Scenes from a Midsummer Night’s Dream. For more information, please contact Julia Lutz before Christmas break 812-357-7887. Rehearsals Mondays beginning January 2nd at Carmel Home.

Thank you for your contributions.

Dec. 4— \$1126  
Goal: \$818  
Candles: \$3  
Donuts: \$2



Community Events:

Until Dec. 31—  
40th Annual Holi-  
day Forest Festival  
of Trees at the  
Owensboro Mu-  
seum of Fine Arts.



**Mount St. Joseph** has enrichment offerings.  
\$25 includes program and lunch  
**December 13**  
Advent Evening with Bishop Medley 5-7 PM  
\$20 includes meal and program

Confessions in December

- 14—Our Lady of Lourdes 6:30 PM  
18—St. Stephens Cathedral 2 PM  
19—Precious Blood 6:30 PM  
19—Sts. Joseph and Paul 6:30 PM  
20—Immaculate 6 PM

Just to call your attention to two envelopes that are in your box of envelopes

1. There is an envelope for Flowers for Christmas so you can remember/honor your loved ones. Please put the name of the loved one on the envelope and have it in by December 18th. Thank you.
2. Each year during Advent the Church takes up a collection for the retired sisters and brothers. They have given their life in prayer and service, often working for less than a dollar a day. Many of these religious are retired with fewer members of their community working. Your gift helps provide pre-scription medications, nursing care, and other needs that they have.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**  
Monday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712  
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32  
Wednesday: Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 7:18b-23  
Thursday: Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30  
Friday: Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Jn 5:33-36  
Saturday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17  
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent  
Monday: Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Tuesday: St. Lucy  
Wednesday: St. John of the Cross  
Friday: *Las Posadas* begins  
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?  
It has feet to go to the poor and needy.  
It has eyes to see misery and want.  
It has ears to hear  
the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine

A SEASON OF HOPE

Today we can bask in the imagery that the Mass readings offer us. In particular, Isaiah’s vision of a parched land that blooms with abundant flowers holds a message for each of us. Too often we are just like that parched land. We can allow ourselves to become absorbed in the waves of consumerism that grip so many. We look for fulfillment in the things that money can buy. Unfortunately, this leaves us like parched land, thirsting for something that money can’t buy. This holy season has much to offer to quench our thirsts. In a word, this season offers hope. We are told that those who are ransomed by God will know joy and gladness. For them, sorrow and mourning will be no more. Let us place our hope in these promises.

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**Do you know that you can help raise money for Blessed Sacrament (or an OCS family) when you buy SCRIP gift card?**

**Scrip is a great stocking stuffer or you can use them to buy gifts. One of the perks for doing this besides raising money is that you don’t have to fight crowds at the stores! Scrip is sold at OCHS on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. Just mention Blessed Sacrament (or the name of an OCS family) when you purchase. If you have any questions, call 270-852-8033 or ask me and I will be happy to help with the answer.**

Those whose hearts are pure are temples of the Holy Spirit. St. Lucy

# From the desk of Father Jamie



The 3rd Sunday of Advent and Lent, to me are the "are we there yet?" Sunday. Now we have gotten used to not having a Gloria at the beginning of Mass and we are ready for Christmas to be here.

I encourage all of us to avoid the "are we there yet?" attitude. If we focus on getting somewhere, we may miss what is happening in the present moment. I think we struggle a lot with this through life. We are so task oriented, that I think we lose or don't see other graces working in our lives. Maybe instead of looking ahead, we should try to just be sometimes.

Another way of looking at the difference between being in the current moment or always focusing on the end or accomplished task, is to look at the difference between airline travelers and long distance train travelers. Those of us who take trains usually are not as much in a hurry and we tend to enjoy the ride, unlike airline passengers, who for the most part are just trying to get to a place quickly. On trains, people are more likely to talk to one another as they travel. On flights, people rarely acknowledge one another, or are glued to mobile devices.

May we try our best to be more like the train traveler, looking at the scenery, talking to the fellow traveler, as we go through Advent. Ask one another how your Advent is going. May we push one another to live in the moment and not just focus on Christmas. May we slow down and enjoy the scenery of Advent, physically and spiritually. Life is a pilgrimage and we should try our best to enjoy it and let it happen.

*Father Jamie leads Vespers on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 at St. Stephen's Cathedral. Please join him in this official prayer of the Church that is prayed daily by priests and religious.*

**Advent Prayer:** Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 5—Hunter Gough
- 14—Linda McDonald
- 16—Yulanda Williams
- 18—Robert Johnson
- 24—Susan Mutter

## Mass Intentions:

- December 4—Frances Johnson
- December 8—Michael Carrico
- December— 11—Les Bumm
- December 18—Jerry Mezur
- December 24—Kenneth Higgs/Sandra Brown

*Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those who are in the process of dying. Always remember to pray for the poor souls in purgatory.*



## WORDS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TO JUAN DIEGO

“Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear that sickness, nor any other sickness or anguish. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.”

