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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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jamie Dennis,

james.dennis@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Jeannette Fennwald, SSND

jeannette.fennwald@pastoral.org



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2016**

They shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You will be given this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:10-14).

Psalms — Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory (Psalm 24).

Second Reading — God has called us to belong to Jesus Christ (Romans 1:1-7).

Gospel — The son born of Mary shall be called Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. He shall be Emmanuel, "God is with us" (Matthew 1:18-24).



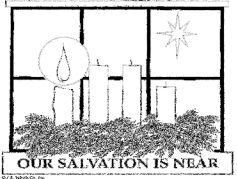
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| <u>Lectors</u> | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Dec. 25:</u> | Marsha Allen |
| | Adaira Hatchett |
| <u>Jan. 1:</u> | Layson Brooks |
| | Diane Hatchett |
| <u>Eucharistic Ministers</u> | |
| <u>Dec. 25:</u> | Charlene Meadows |
| | Vivian Higgs |
| <u>Jan. 1:</u> | Payton Sanford |
| | Tina Gough |
| | Lori Carman |
| <u>Ushers:</u> | |
| <u>Dec. 25:</u> | Gough Family |
| <u>Jan. 1:</u> | Shelby Webster |
| | Robert Johnson |
| <u>Offertory</u> | |
| <u>Dec. 25</u> | Gough Family |
| <u>Jan. 1:</u> | Shelby Webster |
| | Robert Johnson |

An idea for children who have limited funds or for adults to help them refocus on the primary relationship in the family. **Homemade “acts of service” coupon books.** Coupons can be for help around the house, a hug, a promise to stop fighting with a sibling, electronic-free evening of chatting on the deck, a night of child care, doing a chore without being asked, etc. etc. It is the thought that counts.

“Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.”

St. Joseph is rightly revered for his contribution to our eternal salvation. He must have been devastated by the news that Mary, his betrothed wife, was pregnant, but not with his child. He knew Mary would not only be shamed, but in a small village like Nazareth, everyone would have known that Joseph was not the father and she was at risk of being stoned to death. Joseph trusted God and believed his assurance, through an angel, that Mary had not been unfaithful. He took her into his home and was a loving and caring husband of Mary and father to Jesus. Like Joseph, we face difficult situations and challenges in life that hurt us physically, emotionally and spiritually. How we deal with them depends largely on how well we know Jesus by constant reading and reflection of the truth revealed to us by God in Scripture. Have you prepared your gift for Jesus to celebrate his birthday? If not, give Him the gift of reading one of the four Gospels, such as Matthew or Luke. And remember, **Jesus is the Reason for the Season.**



IMP—Kroger Update

Each August Kroger requires all **supporters to re-enroll.** ..Go to 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 Blessed Sacrament’s # is 30623..

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a “carol” anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. “Carol” comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren’t for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn’t make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn’t admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn’t make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol “Silent Night” comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church’s organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the “Silent Night Memorial Chapel” at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

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!

We have to break that cycle of violence and hatred and bigotry, otherwise it will be contagious like a virus.
Cardinal Blasé Cupich of Chicago

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. 8—\$593

Dec.11 —\$638.27

Goal: \$818

Candles: \$10

Chick=Fil-A \$342



Community Events:

Until Dec. 31—
40th Annual Holiday Forest Festival of Trees at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Arts.



Arts at the Cathedral

Jan. 19—Hymn Festival (choirs from Owensboro area churches). Celebrates Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 6 PM

Feb. 19 Owensboro Symphony Chamber Orchestra 4 PM

Confessions in December

18—St. Stephens Cathedral 2 PM

19—Precious Blood 6:30 PM

19—Sts. Joseph and Paul 6:30 PM

20—Immaculate 6 PM



THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

Sunday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Tuesday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter Solstice

Thursday: St. John of Kanty

Friday: The Vigil of Christmas

Saturday: The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent’s scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today’s Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph’s courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God’s holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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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.

GETTING EVEN

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.

From the desk of Father Jamie



It is hard to believe that we are almost to Christmas. Around this time every year, I like to think about the three wise men preparing for their pilgrimage to see the baby Jesus. Of course, they probably started much sooner, since it was such a long trip on foot or by camel. The funny thing, is that the three kings did not know exactly what it was they would discover upon arriving in Bethlehem. It is really something, when we go on a trip and we are expecting one thing and find another.

When I took my first trip to the beach on my own last December, I was mainly looking forward to the beach, but as I have told you all before, I made a new friend. We just never know who or what God will surprise us with. I usually don't like surprises, but sometimes they are good, especially when we need them.

The three kings went to Bethlehem expecting something along the lines of stateliness and maybe a powerful family, but instead found a poor, humble family. They found the king of the universe, surrounded by smelly shepherds and animals. I am sure the kings were shocked and at a loss for words.

I hope that we can appreciate those surprises that God gives us. We need to look for those surprises, those little miracles. May we be open to God's grace and love in the smallest of places. We never know when we will have a God moment. I never imagined that taking the step to college would eventually lead me to priesthood. Small, insignificant events in our lives can lead to greater, life changing ones. May we live life to the fullest and let God walk with us on this pilgrimage of life. May we look for him in everyone we encounter and everything we do.

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

16—Yulanda Williams
18—Robert Johnson
24—Susan Mutter

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7—Jacques Williams II
10—Whitney Williams

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.

*May there always be work for your hands to do.
May your purse always hold a coin or two.
May the sun always shine on your windowpane.
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.
And may you be in heaven a half hour before the devil knows you are dead.*



Church Mice

