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# Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741  
[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [blessedsac602@gmail.com](mailto:blessedsac602@gmail.com)

### 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 Fennewald, SSND  
[jeannette.fennewald@pastoral.org](mailto:jeannette.fennewald@pastoral.org)

### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

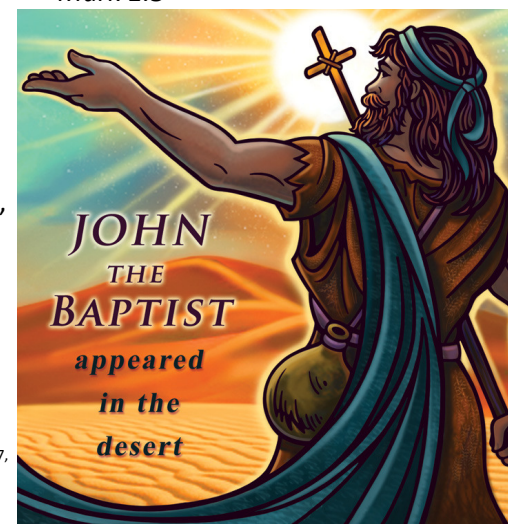
**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

**Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 10, 2017**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

— Mark 1:3



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### Whitney Williams

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# Coming Events

## CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- ◆ Dec. 17—St. Nick after Mass Parish gathering in hall after Mass
- ◆ Dec. 17—Decorate Church (begin)
- ◆ Dec. 24—Finish Church decorations
- ◆ Dec. 24 10 AM Mass (4th Sunday of Advent)
- ◆ Dec. 24—7 PM Mass Christmas Eve
- ◆ Dec. 31 10 AM Mass (Holy Family Sunday)
- ◆ Jan. 1 No Mass at BSC 7 and 12 at St. Stephen's



### Upcoming Diocesan/Community Events

- ◆ Feb. 17 Diocesan Men's Conference
- ◆ March 9-11 Youth 2000 Retreat (held at Brescia University)

### Thank you for your contributions..

Dec. 3—\$780  
 Weekly Budget \$865  
 Year to date —\$19,049  
 YTD budget—\$19,895  
 (\$846)  
 Candles—\$9

Thanks for using the Debt Reduction envelope. It helps bring down what we owe.



### Advent Reconciliation Schedule

- Blessed Mother—Dec. 10 2 PM
- Precious Blood—Dec. 13 6 PM
- Our Lady of Lourdes—Dec. 13 6:30 PM
- St. Mary Magdalene—Dec. 14 6 PM
- St. Stephen's Cathedral—Dec. 17 2 PM
- Immaculate—Dec. 19 6 PM
- Sts. Joseph and Paul—Dec. 19 6:30 PM
- Mount St. Joseph—Dec. 21 6 PM
- St. Pius Tenth—Dec. 21 6PM
- St. Alphonsus—Wednesday evenings
- St. Martin, Rome—Sunday evenings 4:00-5:45

### Experiences at Mount

- ◆ Dec. 14 5-7 PM **Advent Evening with Bishop Medley** Cost: \$20 includes meal and program.

Registration: Kathy McCarty 270-229-0206  
 Or [kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org](mailto:kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org)

### IMP—Kroger

Blessed Sacrament's # is 30623

**With holiday shopping upon us, Blessed Sacrament would appreciate being named as your community reward recipient. Every purchase you make means money back to Blessed Sacrament Thank you for your support.** You can enroll at [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) or call 1-800-KROGERS , option 3

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: 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
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab; Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19; Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent; International Human Rights Day
- Monday: St. Damasus I
- Tuesday: Our Lady of Guadalupe; Hanukkah begins at sunset
- Wednesday: St. Lucy
- Thursday: St. John of the Cross
- Saturday: *Las Posadas* begins

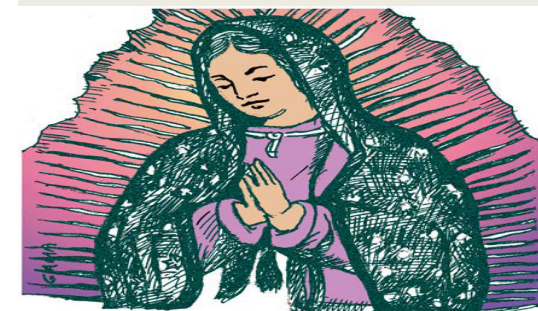
### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

I am the Immaculate Conception.

—Words of Our Lady to St. Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, 1858

### NEWS OF COMFORT

In a time of preparation, much of it having to do with material things, it is good to hear the words of Isaiah, "Comfort, give comfort to my people, / says your God" (Isaiah 40:1). In a time of such stress and rush, when our usual burdens are augmented by piles of Christmas preparations, we can choose to slow down, take some time to heal, and appreciate the enormous gift we are about to receive. Christ, the Son of God, has become one of us, and knows our human limitations. Yet God, even now, is freeing us from the burdens that our inattentiveness to our God and to our deepest inner longings have heaped upon us. The Lord comes, not as a king with mighty armies, but as a shepherd leading the flocks with care and tenderness. Isaiah prophesies good news: our oppression is over, our sins forgiven. The savior we have awaited is coming, not the first time, but in the end times, as our salvation.



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Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Let us join in prayer, especially with our fellow Christians from Latin America.

# From the desk of

## Father Jamie



In our readings today, we hear talk of making a way for the Lord. How do we make ready the way of the Lord? One of the ways I like to make ready his way is by lighting Christmas lights outside. I like the idea of lighting the way before the Lord.

In the first reading we hear about mountains being lowered and valleys being filled in. How do we do this? The best way we make a way for the Lord, is by repenting and readying our hearts. We see in the Gospel today, how John the Baptist is calling out to prepare the way for the Lord, and calls people to repentance. The people came and repented to make the way for the Lord.

May we prepare the way of the Lord by spiritually preparing the way. May we prepare our hearts to make that way for the Lord. I ask all of us to consider going to confession sometime during Advent. Purifying our hearts is for sure the best way to prepare the way for the Lord and to be ready for him. When we are pure, then we can be more able to long and watch for the Lord.

*I would like a question to resound in the heart of each one of you, and I would like you to answer it honestly: Have I considered which idol lies hidden in my life that presents me from worshiping the Lord? Worshiping is stripping ourselves of our idols, even the most hidden ones, and choosing the Lord as the center, as the highway of our lives. —Pope Francis*

**Reflect:** Have you considered which idol lies hidden in your life that prevents you from worshiping the Lord?

### Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



### December Birthdays

- 14—Linda McDonald
- 16—Yulanda Williams
- 18—Robert Johnson
- 20—Cathy Kramer
- 24—Susan Mutter



### E-Giving is Alive!!

You can go to [www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) and click on "E-giving".

### Year End

Many times people are looking to make an end-of-the-year donation for tax purposes. Blessed Sacrament would be honored and happy to be remembered.

### Mass Intentions:

- Dec. 3—Kenneth Higgs
- Dec. 8—Michael Carrico
- Dec. 10—Donald Moorman
- Dec. 17—Jerry Mezur
- Dec. 24 (10 AM)—Barbara Horsley
- Dec. 24 (7 PM)—Sandra Brown
- Dec. 31—Les Bumm

*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.*

### **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."**

The comment we often hear when someone is acting silly or goofy is "Oh, that is just George [or whatever the person's name] being George." We can wonder what Elizabeth or Zachariah said when people told them that their son John was living in the desert, wearing a camelhair shirt and leather belt [expensive belts were braided or made of fine linen] and eating locust and wild honey. Did they say, "Oh, that's just John being John." If so, they were right. John was being *who* and *what* God created him to be - a messenger sent by God to prepare the way of the Lord by making straight his path and calling people to repent for their sins. John had accepted his role and mission in life. He knew he was not the Messiah but that he was to prepare the way for the Messiah. He may have dressed a little strange and eaten an unusual diet, but he did what God created him to do. Are we doing what God created us to do? Are we preparing the way for the Lord, at least the way for the Lord to come into our heart?

## MINSTERS

### Lectors

Dec. 17: Mary Katherine Gough

Austin Gough

Dec. 24 (10 AM) Gloria Adams

Kathi Skidd

Dec. 24 (7 PM) Darlina Etienne

Diana Hatchett

### Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 17: Charlene Meadows

Cindy Clark

Diane Hatchett

Dec. 24 (10 AM) Lori Carman

M.K. Gough

Payton Sanford

Dec. 24 (7 PM) Greg Gough

Vivian Higgs

Marsha Allen

### Ushers/Offertory

Dec. 17: Jacques and Whitney Williams

Dec. 24 (10 AM) Robert Johnson

Rita Moorman

Dec. 24 (7 PM) Charles Brown Family

# Scrip

Many people give gift cards at Christmas or buy gifts with gift cards. Think about using Scrip. Gift cards to local and national merchants (department stores, restaurants, health care, automotive, sporting goods, just to mention a few) are available. A percentage is given back by the merchant. If you mention Blessed Sacrament Chapel when you purchase them, we will get 75% of the rebate. Some merchants give us much as 20% of the value of the card. You only pay the amount of the gift card. Scrip is available at the Catholic High School Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. You can get all your gift cards at one location and not have to go to various stores. If you have any questions, please see Sister Jeannette. It takes a little effort but is worth it. Cards are available year round.

This past July we received a rebate check for \$235.57—a huge increase from the \$19.99 we received in 2016. Would love to see a big increase this next July.

*“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”*

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist is introduced as the one who comes to “prepare the way of the Lord.” We all share in this mission of preparing the way of the Lord by our own vocation to serve and to love.

Prepare the way of the Lord

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many people think that Saint Francis originated the Christmas crèche, but its origins go far back. The Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome has housed what is said to be relics of the cradle of Jesus since the seventh century. In time, every year during the Christmas season the reliquary (container for relics) was surrounded by an increasingly grand three-dimensional scene of the place of Jesus’ birth. Rocks and trees, houses, streams, figurines of villagers going about their daily tasks were all included. It was a very dramatic presentation. If you’ve ever seen an elaborate model train installation, you get the idea. The proper term for this depiction is *presepio*, from the Latin word for “surround” or “hedge.”

Over the centuries, the custom spread first to churches, and then to aristocratic homes. In Italy, whole chapels are often set aside for the *presepio*, and it is not unusual to have hundreds of figures. It can sometimes be a challenge to locate the Holy Family amid the crowd, almost like a *Where’s Waldo?* children’s book. The oldest surviving *presepio* is in St. Mary Major and dates from the thirteenth century, although many pieces have been broken or lost. Saint Francis of Assisi took a decidedly creative step in 1233 in the village of Greccio, when he directed his followers to fill a manger with hay and tether an ox and ass nearby. He then invited the villagers to attend Mass outdoors near the crib, the worshipers themselves becoming a living *presepio*. By the seventeenth century, the tradition was well-established, particularly in Naples, and had a firm hold in Portugal, Spain, and in the Provence region of France. Today, it is not unusual to find *presepios* with five hundred figures, a vivid reminder of Emmanuel, God-with-us!

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

**SICK: Frank Adams, Denise Higgs, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Loretta Wathen, Beverly Chilton,** Sister Janice Fennwald, Charlene Meadows, Larry Leachman, Blythe Nantz, Philip Moorman, Sr., Camilla Greer, Jim Moorman, Sarah Bumm, Dorothy Fulton, Louise Johnson, Larry Allen, Betty Clark, Philip 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. A phone call or a card can cheer the homebound if you can’t visit.

### Mary knew how to Listen

Mary knew how to listen to God. Be careful: it was not merely “hearing,” a superficial word, but it was “listening,” that consists of attention, acceptance, and availability to God. It was not in the distracted way with which we sometimes face the lord or others: we hear their words, but we do not really listen. Mary is attentive to God. She listens to God.

—Pope Francis

◆ **How does God want you to live this out this season of Advent**