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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. Sinoj Pynadath,
sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator:
Sr. Jeannette Fennewald, SSND
jeannette.fennewald@pastoral.org



Third Sunday of Advent December 16, 2018

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear.

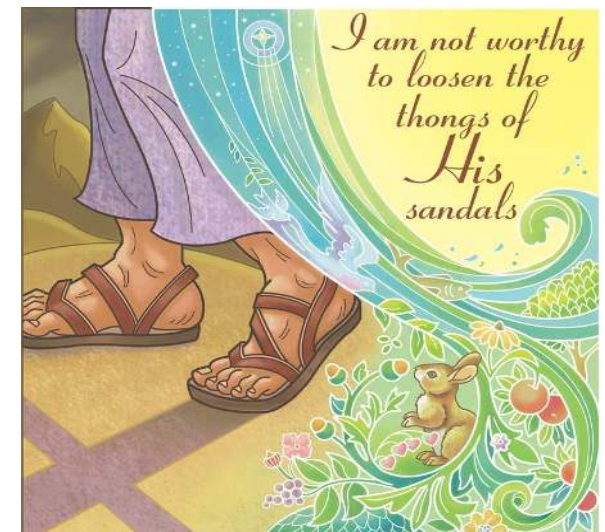
TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Your God will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

Second Reading — Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel — Whoever who has two cloaks should share with the person who has none.



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Prepare the way of the Lord;



From the desk of Father Sinoj

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings!!! The theme of the third Sunday of Advent is Joy. It is called “Gaudete” Sunday because the Mass begins with the opening antiphon, “Gaudete in Domino semper” (“Rejoice in the Lord always”). On this Sunday we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath to express our communal joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior. We rejoice because we are celebrating the day of Christ’s birth; we recognize his daily presence in our midst, and we wait for his returning glory.

In the Gospel this weekend John the Baptist explains the secret of Christian joy as our wholehearted commitment to God’s way by doing His will. John challenges people to generosity and sense of fairness so that others may have reasons to rejoice. According to John, happiness comes from doing our duties faithfully, doing good for others and sharing our blessings with others in need. John’s call to repentance is a call to joy and restoration. Repentance means a change in the purpose and direction of our lives. John tells the people to act with justice, charity and honesty, letting their lives reflect their transformation. For us, that transformation occurs when Christ enters our lives, and it is to be reflected in our living.

John painted a picture of judgment, but it was a judgment which a believer could meet with confidence and joy if she/he had discharged her/his duty to a neighbor and if she/he had faithfully done her/his day’s work. Let our repentance be joyful. Let us rejoice mainly by realizing the presence of Jesus in our midst and by receiving him into our lives through our repentance, our renewal of life and our doing of God’s will.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: Rejoice! (Phil 4:4)

(“.”) Always

“.”(“.”) Keep

(“.”),“.” Smiling!

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath,

December Birthdays

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



IMP—Kroger

Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799

Blessed Sacrament would appreciate being named as your community reward recipient. You can enroll at www.kroger.com or call 1-800-KROGERS

We will receive a check for \$88.89 for Sept. through Nov. Six new families have signed up as our supporters. Thank you.

Mass Intentions:

- December 16—Jerry Mezur
- December 23—Bernice Williams
- Dec. 24 (PM)—Sandra Brown
- Dec. 30—Kenneth Higgs
- Dec. 31 (PM)—Dorothy Fulton

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

Our thoughts and prayers are with: SICK Martha Kramer, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Loretta Wathen, Beverly Chilton, Kathi Skidd, Larry Clark, Maggie Sheenan, Shelby Webster, Frank Adams, Rose Chapman, Father Pat Ryan, Charlene Meadows, Larry Leachman, Philip Moorman, Sr., Camilla Greer, Jim Moorman, Louise Johnson, Larry Allen, Phillip Moorman, Jr., **if you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

THE HOMEBOUND:

Ruth Coble is at Heritage Place on Buckland Square. Beverly Chilton is in her home but can no longer join us for Sunday Mass and activities. A phone call or a card can cheer the homebound if you can’t visit.

As many of you are aware Father Ray Clark spent some time in the Holy Land earlier this year. While there, he purchased hand-carved Nativity statues in memory of Frances Johnson, long-time parishioner and mother of Barbara Hammond. The statues will be blessed and used for the first time at our Christmas Vigil Mass on Dec. 24th.



Coming Events CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- Dec. 16** Christmas Soulful Concert 2 PM
- Dec. 24** 7PM Christmas Vigil Mass and Blessing of Crib
- Jan. 24**—BSC Nite at McDonald's 4-7 PM
- Feb. 17**—Gospel Explosion 2 PM
- March 2** Italian Dinner

Diocesan Happenings

- Jan. 11-13** Retrouvaille (for cold marriages) at Mount St. Joseph
- Feb. 2** Diocesan Men's Conference at Riverpark Center



Thank you for your contributions.

- Candles —\$6
- Flowers —\$61
- Dec. 9—\$470
- Weekly Budget —\$875
- Nov. \$3839.25
- Nov.. budget \$3500
- Year to date—\$19,267.19
- YTD budget—\$20, 125



Today's Scripture readings offer beautiful yet practical advice. The Second Reading tells us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all." That might sound easy for those of us who experience anxiety! However, with that advice comes instructions: "In everything, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, make your requests known to God." What a simple, comforting reminder for us as we strive to live as disciples!

The Gospel reminds us that we are called to return to the Lord a portion of our blessings by sharing what we have with those in need. The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He answers, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

The readings today beautifully capture the spirituality of stewardship. With grateful hearts, we pray and give thanks to the Lord for all our blessings; we nurture and tend those gifts, and share them justly and responsibly.

Let us rejoice in the Lord and his abundant love for us!

If you are looking for a place to donate to before the end of the calendar year, look no further. Blessed Sacrament Chapel appreciates and makes good use of any donations that we receive. Thank you for thinking of us.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 8-19; Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38
- Friday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
- Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Third Sunday of Advent; *Las Posadas* begins
- Tuesday:** International Migrants Day
- Friday:** St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins

We have sent Christmas cards to our home-bound parishioners and promised our prayers. Please remember them in your thoughts and prayers.

IMPRESSIONABLE

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every passerby leaves a mark.

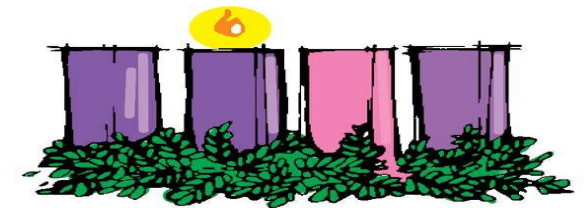
—Ancient Chinese proverb

REJOICE!

Today has traditionally been called "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin tag is derived from Paul's appeal in the second reading to "rejoice always in the Lord," and the Latin Mass text based on that reading. The irony and paradox of this Christian joy is underlined by the fact that Paul wrote those words in prison. But from there he could see the progress of God's work.

Is it obvious to us? We feel that this is not the time for joy when there is so much suffering and moral evil. It is interesting, then, that the first reading is from the prophet Zephaniah, who is almost exclusively concerned with gloomy visions of Judgment Day. Today the Church selects the only optimistic text in Zephaniah, in which the prophet has been touched by the spirit of joy.

This, we are assured on all sides, is "the season of joy." Let us recapture that feeling of joy in our lives and reflect it to those who are joyless.



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Dear Heavenly Father,
This is my one word prayer: PEACE.

I can't see ahead. I don't know what to do. Here are all my fears and my questions... (share yours). I want to experience your perfect peace. Let it be with me. Just as you say. Hold me, God, so I can hear you whisper to me, "You don't have to know the way I do." In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lectors

Dec. 23: Audrey Mezur

Marsha Allen

Dec. 24: Mary K. Gough

Layson Brooks

Dec. 30 Jacques Williams

Barbara Bissel

Dec. 31: Marsha Allen

Connie Clary

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 23: Greg Gough

Yvonne Hatchett

Payton Sanford

Dec. 24: Cindy Clark

Dec. 30: Rita Moorman

Cathy Kramer

Charlene Meadows

Ushers/Offertory

Dec. 23: Bisel Family

Dec. 24: Barbara Hammond

& family

Dec. 30: Fulton Family



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During Advent we think of our many blessings and often want to do an outreach. Here at BSC we have a chance to share those blessings. There are boxes in the back of church where you may put items that we can donate to the homeless shelters (hats, gloves, socks, umbrellas...) and food items for families in need. Thank you for your outreach.

Advent Penance Services

There seems to be a hundred things to do in December as we get ready for the holidays—plan, shop for gifts and food, entertain..... Please put time in for getting closer to God by going to Reconciliation.

December 16—Blessed Mother 2 PM

St. Mary Magdalene 6 PM

December 18 Immaculate 6 PM

December 19 Sts. Joseph and Paul 6:30 PM

December 20 Precious Blood 6 PM

December 23 St. Stephen's 2 PM

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Years ago, the trick question on religion quizzes would be to name all the liturgical colors, or the colors of the vestments worn at Mass. Rose is a color seldom seen, used at most two days a year. Today, "Gaudete Sunday," is one of those days. The name of the day is drawn from an opening verse in the old Latin Mass texts: *Gaudete* is Latin for "Rejoice!" This year's Gospel certainly reflects that mood as Elizabeth feels her infant within her leaping for joy at the presence of Mary. Mary's visit to her aged cousin is an act of compassion between women, as two kinswomen who are bearing children into the world share their joy.

Some churches retain the custom of having the priest wear rose vestments today, and many will use a rose candle in the Advent wreath. Violet is the official color for Advent and Lent, but many parishes employ different hues for each season, trying to keep them distinct. In medieval times, dye was costly, and poor parishes used unornamented plain cloth for vestments. Dyes were expensive and some colors, particularly purple, difficult to achieve. In England, purple dye was made from mollusks, yielding at best a deep indigo or blue and not the desired violet. Thus, the color of Advent in the British Isles has long been a deep blue, reminding many people of Mary's presence at the heart of the Advent mystery. That theology is largely unplanned: it's all because of the clams!

Mark your calendar: Sunday December 16 2 PM

Today is our Soulful Concert. There will be religious Christmas music and the younger members of our parish portraying the nativity scene. Invite your neighbors to join us. There will be fellowship following the gathering in church. We will need cookies to serve during our fellowship time following the concert. Please plan to stay and welcome our guests.

Church Mice

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