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# Blessed Sacrament

## 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**

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

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

**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN  
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**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennwald,  
 SSND [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



## The Holy Family December 27, 2020

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

## TODAY'S READINGS

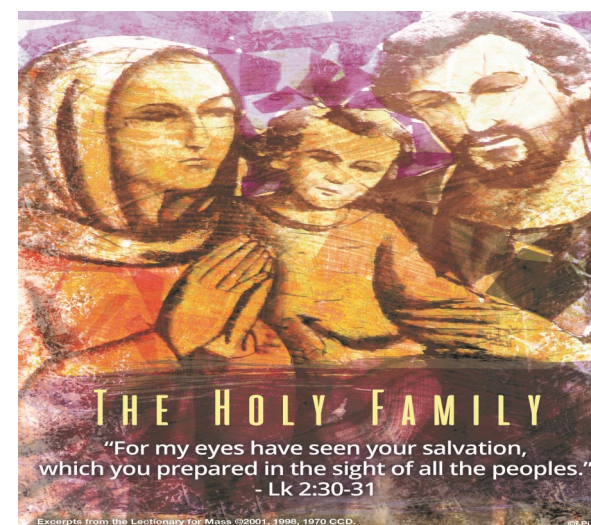
**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.*

**Psalm** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalm 128) or *Psalm 105.*

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (*Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.*)

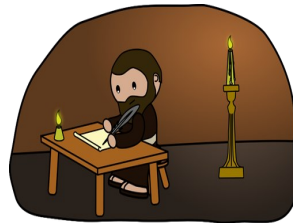
**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40 [

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# Whatever you do in word or deed, Do everything in the name of Jesus.

*From the desk of Father Sinoj*



Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings! I believe you all could celebrate Christmas with your family/friends in some way. Let us live the joy and peace we celebrated. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. When the Word became flesh, the family in which it happened became Holy. Through the Presentation of Jesus in Temple, Mary and Joseph, along with Jesus made the Will of God, be fulfilled through their lives. Our families become holy when we are able to live the Word of God and fulfill His Will.

In today's Gospel we also find two people who were waiting their whole life to see Jesus, Simeon and Anna. They challenge us as we, the world, are trying to increase the pace of life. Day by day we become impatient and want to rush from one line to another. God works in a time zone where a day is as thousand years. When things don't happen at our pace we need to keep in mind that God is still at work still wrapping the packages still preparing a gift to fit our needs and preparing us for the gift. Let us pray for Patience!

We are entering into the New Year 2021! I wish you all a Hope-filled New Year! We begin the year with celebrating the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God. Let us try to participate in a Eucharist of this Solemnity, offering our new year to the mercy of God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother!

(^^.^^) Always  
^.,(^^.^^) Keep  
(^^.^^),.^ Smiling!

God Loves You!!

## January Birthdays

- 3--Parker Malone
- 7--Jacques Williams II
- 10--Whitney Williams
- 14--Burnell Hamilton
- 20--Janet Clark
- 22--Von Williams



**We are not Christians “part time,” only at certain moments, in certain circumstances, in certain decisions; no one can be Christian in this way--we are Christian all the time!**

## Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

## Mass Intentions

- December 27--Kenneth Higgs
- December 31--Ann Denise Ward
- January 3--Mary Ann Calhoun
- January 10--Charles E. Thompson
- January 17--Kevin Fitzgerald

*Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.*

**Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: Vickie and Dan Kutz, Merle Griffith, Gloria Cecil, Tyler Cruppi, Larry Conder, Mike Coakley, Andy Evans, Jason Pierce, Ruth Coble, Gary Moorman, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Larry Allen, Shirley Schmidt, Carol Hatchett, Rachel Mattingly, Camilla Greer, Louise, Philip Moorman, Jr. If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

Please remember our home-bound: Ruth Coble and Shirley Schmidt who are at Heritage Park. Georgia Holland lives in St.. Louis but stays active in BSC happenings. Please pray also for all who, because they are vulnerable, cannot attend Mass. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

## The Clever Grandmother

One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas checks she sent to the kids. The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their checks. When asked by a friend what caused this behavior change, the grandmother replied, "It is simple. This year I didn't sign the checks."

Coming Events  
CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Dec. 31--Mass 6 PM  
Feast of Mary, Mother of God.

Jan. 10-- Blessing of Sacramental  
Candidates at Mass  
Take down Christmas decorations



December 20--\$936  
Weekly budget: \$952  
MTD collections--\$3,619  
MTD budget--\$2,856  
YTD collection--\$28,167  
YTD budget---\$23,800



May each of us give  
according to what  
the Lord has blessed  
us with.



Pope Francis’s Prayer to Mary  
During Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 Mt 2:13-18
- Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5-6 /Lk 2:22-35
- Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8, 8-9, 10 /Lk 2:36-40
- Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 /Jn 1:1-18
- Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 / Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
- Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3-4 / Jn 1:19-28
- Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, Eph 3:2-3, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

SAINTS AND SPECIAL  
OBSERVANCE

- Sunday: The Holy Family
- Monday: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
- Tuesday: St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr
- Thursday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year’s Eve
- Friday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God; New Year’s Day; World Day of Peace
- Saturday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen
- Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord; National Migration Week

**TIME** Do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

BEARERS OF THE WORD

The Church has placed a number of notable feast days immediately after Christmas. The feasts of Stephen, John the Evangelist, and the Holy Innocents form a summary of the life lived in Christ, the Word made flesh. These feasts remind us that suffering will occur in fulfilling the mission of Christ, and that we are all called to be bearers of this Word whose birth we celebrate.

We also see this manifested in the lives of Joseph and Mary, both of whom took social and religious risks in obedience to the will of God, and both of whom were open to the word of God. In these ways they prefigured the life of Jesus himself.

Angelic Visitors

Sometimes we wish angels would appear to us and give us directions for our lives. Most of us will never experience the dramatic angelic visitations that Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and Magi had. But we have angelic visitors of another kind: the wise counsel of an elder, the gentle support of a friend, a certain line from Scripture, a song sung at Mass, a neighbor in need, a news story that haunts us, the leaning of our heart during prayer. And what’s more, sometime we’re an angelic visitor for someone else.

This year, perhaps more than ever, we have become aware of the precious gift of family. As disciples, we are called to cherish and care for this gift as best we can. We are called to do likewise for our larger family, our parish community. This week, spend some quiet time with the Lord and pray for a family you know that is experiencing a difficult time.

### Lectors

December 27: Kathi Skidd  
Sarah Malone

Decemberr 31: Kathi Skidd

January 3: \_Layson Brooks  
Barbara Bisel

**“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace. . .” Luke 2:22-40**

How was your Christmas? Did you get what you wanted? Was everybody happy with the gifts you gave them? Have you returned all of the presents you received that you did not want or that do not fit? Did you spend some time with Jesus? Do we realize and appreciate his role and importance in our lives? Do we understand that a constantly growing intimate relationship with Jesus is a tremendous gift? St. Luke tells us about Simeon, a righteous and devout man who awaited the consolation of Israel. Eight days after the first Christmas, the Birth of Jesus, Joseph and Mary brought him to the Temple to perform the custom of the law. Simeon realizes that the Lord had fulfilled his promise to let him see Christ the Lord. When Simeon saw the child Jesus he knew he had received a tremendous gift. We have received the gift of awareness of who and what Jesus is in our lives. A constantly growing intimate relationship with Jesus is the real gift of Christmas. It is a gift we should cherish and share with others.

St. Joseph knew, when Mary became pregnant, that this child was not his child. He saw that she was pregnant but didn't know how. If he had gone to the high priest, she would have been stoned to death. Do you see the charity and thoughtfulness of St. Joseph? If we have the same kind of charity and thoughtfulness toward each other, our families will become the abode of the Most High. How beautiful our families will become where there is total thoughtfulness for others.

---Mother St. Teresa of Calcutta

**Pope Francis has designated 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph. May he be our model in a special way.**



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**Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin.**

### **Holy Family of Jesus and Mary**

Tragedy and disappointment are inevitable. What sees you through this? There will be challenges, changes, unexpected circumstances, interrupted plans, hurts, and injustices experienced by every human being at some point in their lives. We will be asked to adjust our plans, change course, and even encounter suffering and death. Where do we learn all of the lessons we need to live life well? Some of them we learn along the way but much of what we bring to life, positive and negative, comes from our early beginnings, our families. Our families of origin can be sources of grace, heart-ache or a combination of both. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication, and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. Many of life's challenges can literally bring us to our knees and require that we possess a strength of character that resides well beyond the superficialities of our world. At some point we will all need three coping gifts that can be given to us only by God: faith, hope, and love. Our families help us learn that we are not the ones responsible for their creation, but God!

Our experience of early family life colors all of our relationships and what we expect to achieve from life in general. Resolving conflicts, dealing with difficulty and suffering, celebrating accomplishments, prioritizing our needs, listening to God's call, understanding relationships, understanding disappointment, learning about the virtues and living a centered focused life are all lessons our families either succeed in teaching or do not. To succeed, as God has designed and ordered our world, is to discover his presence and then trust that Presence. The Holy Family can teach even the most dysfunctional family how to best use God's gifts of faith, hope, and love to find him and do his will. Their simple humble example is always before us, showing us the way.

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!**

### **Church Mice**

Karl Zorowski



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