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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

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN
sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennewald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org



2nd Sunday of Advent December 6, 2021

Make straight in the wasteland
a highway for our God!

TODAY'S READINGS

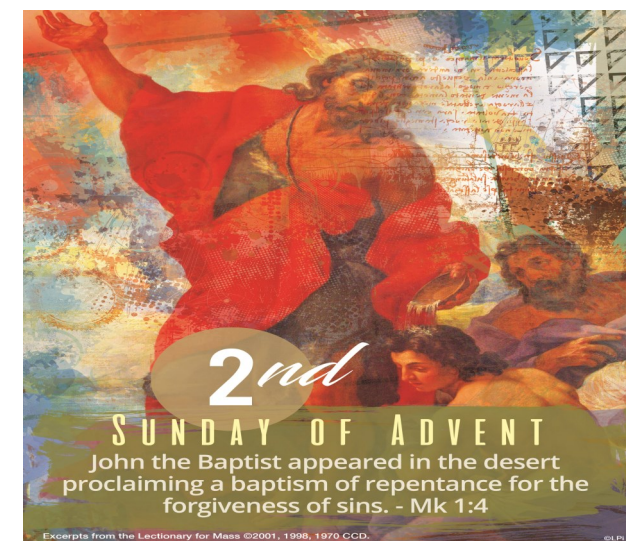
1st Reading: Make straight in the wasteland
a highway for our God! (Is 40:3)

Psalm: Lord, let us see your kindness,
(Ps 85)

Second Reading: The day of the Lord will
come like a thief, (2 Pt 3:10)

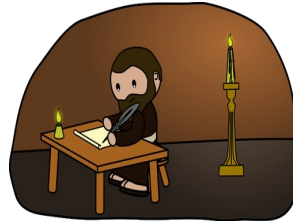
Gospel: "One mightier than I is coming after
me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the
thongs of his sandals." (Mk 1:7b-8)

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Like a shepherd He gathers the lambs.

From the desk of Father Sinoj



Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings! Thank you very much for your prayers during the time I was sick. Let us continue to pray for all the people suffering due to this virus. Let us entrust the world especially our country to the care of our Blessed Mother as we celebrate her Feasts during this week. And let us cooperate with all the necessary measures to prevent this virus from spreading.

On this second Sunday of Advent the Gospel tells us through John the Baptist how we should prepare to receive Jesus our Savior. John preached that the appropriate behavior for those preparing “the way of the Lord” was to be baptized “as they confessed their sins.” He wanted the Jews to prepare their lives for the Messiah by filling in the valleys of prejudice, levelling the mountains of pride and straightening out their crooked paths of injustice and immorality.

In the same way we need to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus: the Church invites us to prepare for Christmas by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives so that Jesus may be reborn in us. People around us should recognize Jesus’ rebirth in our lives by our sharing love, unconditional forgiveness, compassionate and merciful heart and spirit of humble and committed service.

(“..”) Always
“..(“..”) Keep
(“..”),“..” Smiling!
“..”

God Loves You!!

Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, HGN

December Birthdays

16--Yulanda Williams

18--Robert Johnson

20--Cathy Kramer

24--Susan Mutter



Please remember in our prayers Otha Holbrook who was buried this past week. He was Carol Hatchett’s brother and grandfather to Yvonne, Brent, and Trent.

Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

--Mother St. Teresa of Calcutta.

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 6--Grace Medley Ebelhar

December 7--Charles E. Thompson

December 13--Mary Ann Calhoun

December 20--Betty Clark

December 24--Donald Moorman

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: 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, Nancy Bumm, Camilla Greer, Louise Johnson, Phillip 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.

St. Stephen Cathedral New Mass Schedule

4:30 PM Vigil on Saturday

8:30 and 11:00 on Sunday

7 :00 AM and 12:05 PM Mon-Fri.

Coming Events
CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- Dec. 7--Mass 6 PM
Feast of Immaculate Conception
- Dec. 20--Decorate Church after Mass
- Dec. 24--7 PM Christmas Eve Mass
- Dec. 31--Mass 6 PM Feast of Mary,
Mother of God.



- November 29--\$263
- Weekly budget: \$952
- MTD collection\$6606
- MTD budget--.\$4760
- YTD collection--\$25,548
- YTD budget-- \$20,944



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.

Time’s A Wastin’

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas before a long holiday week-end. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars in front and in back of him. Finally the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. “Reverend ,” said the young man, “sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.” The minister chuckled, “I know exactly what you mean. It is the same in my business.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-1 /Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Gn 3:9-15,Ps 98:2-3, 3-4 /Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 /Mt 11:28-30
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 / Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Zec 2:14-17/Jdt 13:18, 19/ Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

- Monday: St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin
- Wednesday: St. Juan Diego
- Friday: St. Damasus I, Pope
- Saturday: Our Lady of Guadalupe



Anticipation

We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God’s coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion. Don’t you want the “best seat” in the house? You don’t want to miss Our Lord’s arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ’s coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

Lectors

December 6: Layson Brooks
Kathi Skidd

December 7: Sarah Malone
Barbara Bisel

December 13: Kathi Skidd
Jacques Williams

“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?

Prepare the Way

Advent is a time of waiting, a time of patience and preparing. It’s hard to recall a time when patience has been harder to come by! Our patience has been tested by countless challenges in 2020 including shortages of supplies, ever-changing restrictions, job stress or loss, illness or the grieving of loved ones lost, or the sadness of isolation, which has taken many forms.

And yet, some things do not change. The sun rises and sets, seasons change, and during Advent we still await the coming of the Lord. This year, with perhaps more time at home (whether by choice or not), we can prepare our hearts by spending time in daily prayer. Create some silence by turning off your phone, iPad, and television. In that silent space, invite the Lord to be with you. Reflect on and count your blessings, because even in this difficult time there are things for which to be grateful. Offer prayers for all those affected by changes the pandemic has brought about. Pray for those experiencing isolation, whether in nursing homes or alone at home. Pray for all those in many roles who have worked tirelessly to battle COVID. Pray for the patience and strength to weather the storms of this pandemic season. In daily prayer, we can watch and wait for the Lord and prepare the way for Him to enter our hearts.

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego

The feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16th century.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan’s uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

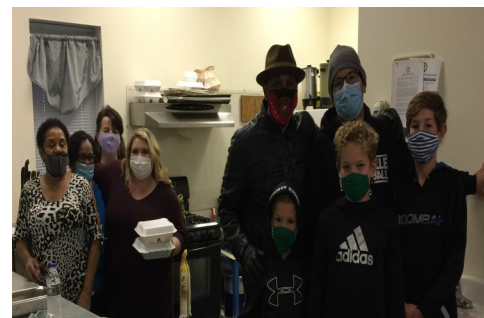
On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop’s presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.



Thanksgiving dinner Busy at work and the ending crew. Thanks to all who made the dinner possible.



Outside crew serving our guests.



Thanks to all who brought food and helped serve.

