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Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

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

Pastor: Father John Thomas
john.thomas@pastoral.org

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

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



TODAY'S READING

First Reading:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

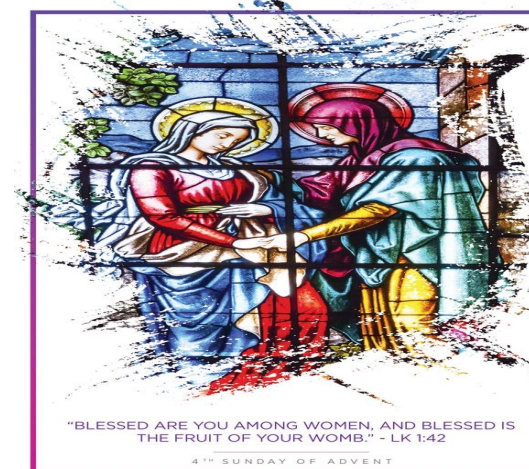
"Then I said, ' Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

Gospel:

"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:42-43)

Dec. 19, 2021. 4th Sunday of Advent

Blessed are thou among women and
Blessed is the fruit of your womb.



*Behold I come to do your will,
O God.*

From the desk of Father Sinoj



Dear Friends in Christ

We are in the last week of Advent. Let us spend these days in eager seeking for Jesus and preparation to receive Him into our Hearts. Wish you all the BLESSINGS, PEACE and JOY of CHRISTMAS! May the celebration of His birth this year encourage us to overcome the powers of darkness with the confidence that God is with us!

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the Gospel speaks of the meeting of two cousins when Mary visited Elizabeth, both pregnant with life and Faith. This meeting becomes an occasion of profound conviction of the fulfillment of God’s promises. Elizabeth greets Mary as the “Mother of the Lord,” the baby in the womb “leaps” for joy. These reactions signify their trust in the Lord and His promises. Both Mary and Elizabeth exemplify the epitome of authentic Faith.

Let us rejoice with Mary and Elizabeth because of our Faith in God who loves us. This Christmas shall remind us of the infinite mercy and compassion we have received from the Lord and be grateful to Him. And let us share that joy with those around us as they shared. Thus through us Christ will be born in the hearts of many. Blessed Christmas!

😊 Always
😊 Keep
😊 Smiling!

God Loves you!!!

Father Sinoj, HGN



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITON

In ancient pagan Rome, these days in mid-December were a time for general slacking off at work and far too much rejoicing. The period of leisure after the harvest and a whole cluster of pagan festivals were a force for the church to reckon with. The Saturnalia, breaking out on December 17, was a time of high living and loose morals. Christians were advised by their bishops to drop out of the mayhem and do some serious fasting. A famous church council at Saragossa in Spain made a season of fasting mandatory from December 17 to December 23, exactly coinciding with the Saturnalia. The bishops at that time were perhaps less concerned with preparing for Christmas that with resisting the kind of loose living going on.

Modern times have restored a bit of the Saturnalia spirit to our culture, so that a general period of partying with a vague connection to religion is now upon us. How does a Christian keep balance? ; The practice of charity by remembering the poor in our gift-giving, of hospitality in finding a place at our holiday tables for the poor and lonely, and of daily prayer in the home and at church are great helps. Although Advent is not a penitential season like Lent, it is a time for making room in our lives for what matters most. (JS Paluck)

Church Mice

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Merry Christmas!

*May the peace of Christ be with you
as you share the love
that He has shown each of us.*
Father John, Father Sinoj, HGN, Sister Jeannette, SSND



December Birthdays

- 16--Yulanda Williams
- 18--Robert Johnson
- 20--Cathy Kramer
- 24---Susan Mutter

January Birthdays

- 3--Parker Malone
- 7-- Jacques Williams II



An Advent Prayer for Peace

Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life--burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings. Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, “Be afraid!” We need your peace, Jesus. We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace prevails, stir up that good news again. This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel. We not only need Your peace and joy; we crave it. You’ve promised rest for the weary, victory for the battle-scarred, peace for the anxious, and acceptance for the broken-hearted--not just at Advent, but every day of every year. We know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with You. You are still our joy. You are still our peace. You are Lord of lords .

Mass Intentions .

- December 19--Herbert Millay
- December 24--Donald Moorman
- December 26--Paul Knott
- January 2--Dottie Monarch Clark
- January 9--Charles E. Thompson

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 Allen, Shirley Schmidt, Carol Hatchett, Stephen Hall, Colton Braungardt, Hank Pardon,** Doris Smith, Debbie Bellwood, Janice Taul , Merle Griffith, Tyler Cruppi, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Ruth Coble, Larry Conder, Mike Coakley, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman, Rachel Mattingly, Camilla Greer, Phillip Moorman, Jr. **If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

Please remember our home-bound: Ruth Coble at One Park Place and Shirley Schmidt at Hermitage. Georgia Holland lives in St. Louis 1360 Copergate Ln., St. Louis, MO 63138 but stays active in BSC. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Thank you. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register.

Coming Events
CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

December 24--7 PM Mass at BSC

4:00 PM and 11 PM at SSC

December 25 9 AM at SSC

December 26--10 AM Mass

January 2--10 AM Mass

January 16--Synod Listening Session
11 AM



Dec. 12--\$1265

Weekly Budget--\$962

MTD collections--\$2350

MTD budget--\$1924

YTD collection-\$26,084

YTD budget---\$23,088

Tornado Relief--\$709

Candles--\$2

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



Baby Jesus’ Wish List

Odds are you’ve got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What’s the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you’ve ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There’s a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it’s a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it’s a wish list that can really confuse you. What’s God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He’s customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It’s God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. “Do this, but don’t do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy.”

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God’s people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God’s real wish list didn’t really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It’s far simpler, but luckily, it’s something we still have on-hand. **All He wants is our whole heart.**

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Lector	
<u>December 19:</u>	Aubrey Ottofy Wayne Stephens
<u>December 24:</u>	Layson Brooks Sarah Malone
<u>December 26:</u>	Greg Gough Kathi Skidd
Eucharistic Minister	
<u>December 19:</u>	Vivian Higgs
<u>December 24:</u>	Cindy Clark
<u>December 26:</u>	Barbara Bisel

Are We Open to God’s Plan for our Life?
Donna Tarantino, Director of Ministries & Volunteers

Today’s Gospel about Mary’s visit to Elizabeth offers several themes for reflection: the presence of Christ in their midst, the support and love they show for each other, the power of their belief, and their openness to God’s plan in their lives. In daily prayer this Advent, we can ask ourselves: are we open to the working of God’s plan in our own lives? In what ways do Mary and Elizabeth serve as models for ways in which we can offer support to one another?

May God bless you in many and unexpected ways!

Jesus Is Better Than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole; Jesus lives everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh; Jesus rides on the wind and walks on water.
Santa comes but once a year; Jesus is an ever present help.
Santa comes down your chimney uninvited; Jesus stands at your door and knocks.
Santa makes you stand in line to see him; Jesus is as close as the mention of his name.
Santa lets you sit on his lap; Jesus lets you rest in his arms.
Santa asks your name; Jesus knew our names before we did.
Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly; Jesus has a heart full of love.
Santa offers Ho, ho, ho; Jesus offers health, help, and hope.
Santa says “You better not cry”; Jesus says “Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.”
Santa’s little helpers make toys; Jesus makes new lives, mends hearts, repairs broken homes.
Santa may make you chuckle; Jesus gives you joy.
Santa puts gifts under the tree; Jesus became our gift and died on the tree.
There’s really no comparison. Jesus is the reason for the season.



Shout Out

- ◇ To: Layson Brooks, Greg and Ethan Gough, Jacques Williams for installing poles by driveway on parking lot.
- ◇ To: Jarrod, Parker, and John Carson Malone for raking leaves in front of Blessed Sacrament.

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/ Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Sg 2:8-14 /Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Wednesday:	1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/ Lk 1:46-56
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Friday:	<i>Night:</i> Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-3, 11 -12, 13/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Observances for the week of Dec. 19	
Tuesday:	St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	St. John of Kanty, Priest
Friday:	Christmas Eve
Saturday:	The Nativity of the Lord

Merry Christmas!

Reconciliation	
Penance Service	
•	December 19 2 PM St Stephen
Reconciliation Opportunities	
•	St. Stephen Saturdays 9:30-11
•	Blessed Mother Saturdays 12:30-2
•	Lourdes Mondays 5:30-6:30 Wednesdays 4:30-5:15 Fridays 11-12 Saturdays 3-4

Memories and Dreams

Throughout our lives, we retain the language and habits of our native region and family of origin. Should we return to our home after a long absence, we quickly revert to its familiar speech and practices. Our deep memory is reflected in old stories and words and speech patterns. The familiarity runs like an underground river and accompanies us wherever we go.

Not only do we remember, we are incorporated into and made part of a greater memory. In remembering and recollecting, we are in turn gathered up and re-collected.

Today we remember Mary, a small figure travelling the country roads to visit Elizabeth. All the great pronouncements and dreams of the prophets point to this time when the Lord’s words to Mary would be gathered and fulfilled. The memories of her people are alive in her, and memories of her nourish our own living faith.



O Come, Long Foretold
O come, Desired of nations,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Will break the captives fetters.
Redeem the long-lost fold.
Dear Savior, haste, come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face.
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
Simon Peliegrin