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 Phone : 270-883-1450
 Email : it@anitconsultant.com

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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:

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

Gospel:

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

Dec. 26, 2021. Holy Family Sunday
 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.



*Let the peace of Christ
control your hearts.*

From the desk of Father Sinoj



Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings of a continuation of the Peace and Joy of Christmas! Hope you all had a merry Christmas! Sunday after Christmas is the Feast of the Holy Family. This year it is just the day after Christmas, December 26th. Therefore the Feast of St. Stephen the first martyr and the patron of our Diocese is suppressed. Festal Greetings to all of you!

This Feast is celebrated on the Sunday following Christmas in order to encourage us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. As a basic unit of the universal Church, each family is called to holiness. It is in family we first learn that we are loved, understood, wanted, cared for, protected, and challenged to become all we were created to be. The family nurtures us into our relationship with God.

It is amazing that the Son of God should belong to a family. This family also experienced those moments of confusion and ups and downs. The gospel of today is of the visit of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to the Jerusalem temple and the loss of child Jesus and finding him in the same temple. Perhaps such experiences and trials might be the occasions of enlightenment if we are ready to put our Trust in the Lord.

We have several liturgically significant celebrations in the week. And we are at the end of the calendar year. Wish you Happy New Year! January 1st is also the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Let us not forget God these days. If possible let us try to thank God through the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

😊 Always
😊 Keep
😊 Smiling!

God Loves you!!!

Father Sinoj, HGN

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's feast is new as feasts go, and it sets us this year in a very modern crisis. Amid conflicting schedules and commitments, a young man, testing the limits, has strayed from his parents and gone off to the big city. Mary and Joseph search frantically, only to find the child Jesus in the temple conversing with the elders and scholars of the law, who are amazed at his wisdom.

In the time of Jesus, the temple was the religious center of Jewish ritual. Outside of Jerusalem, people gathered in the synagogues, centers of learning, for daily prayer and study. Still everyone longed to journey to the temple to participate in the offerings and to fulfill certain obligations of the law that could only be done there. On this feast, we catch a glimpse of the family of Jesus parents dealing with the normal stresses of raising a child, and yet completely grounded in the ways of faith and tradition.

There has always been appreciation in Christianity for the value of pilgrimage--the journey to holy places that is a symbol of our life's journey to God, and a sense of connection to important events in our family history. During the Christmas season, many of us undertake pilgrimages to the family homestead for festival meals, to the parishes where we were formed in the faith, or perhaps even to a beautiful manger scene or festival of lights. There are few better days than this in our calendar for spending time with the family, especially on a short pilgrimage to a favorite place. Just make sure no one gets left behind.

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



Laugh of the Week It was the day after Christmas at a downtown church in San Francisco. The pastor was out in front looking over the manger scene set up on the front lawn when he noticed the Christ Child figure was missing. Right on cue, he turned to see a little boy with a red wagon coming down the street and in the wagon was a figure of the infant Jesus. So the pastor walked up to the boy and asked, “Well young man, where did you pick up your passenger?” “I got Him here from the church.” “And why did you take Him?” The little boy replied, “Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus, and told Him if He would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give Him a ride around the block in it.”

December Birthdays

January Birthdays

3--Parker Malone
7-- Jacques Williams II
10--Whitney Williams
14--Burnell Hamilton
20--Janet Clark
22--Vaughn Williams
25--Louse Johnson
26--Frank Adams
27--Sarah Malone, Lilly Malone
30--Pam Wilson



Grow and Be Strong

The Gospel of St. Luke tells us that, in the family of Nazareth, Jesus “grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was up on him.” (Lk. 2:40) Our Lady does just this for us; she helps us to grow as human beings and in the faith, to be strong and never to fall into the temptation of being human beings and Christians in a superficial way, but to live responsibly, (Pope Francis)

.It has been said that it takes about month to form a habit. Consider an area of your life where you need to grow in virtue, and spend the next month developing the corresponding good behavior. Entrust this habit-forming to Mary

Mass Intentions .

December 26--Paul Knott
January 2--Dottie Monarch Clark
January 9--Charles E. Thompson
January 16--Herbert Millay
January 23--Betty and John Clark

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: Veronica Wilhite, 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

January 2--10 AM Mass
January 9--Take down decorations
January 16--Synod Listening Session
#1 11 AM
February 13--Synod Listening Session
#2 11 AM



Dec. 19----\$965

Weekly Budget--\$962

MTD collections--\$3315

MTD budget--\$2886

YTD collection-\$27,049

YTD budget---\$24,050

Tornado Relief--\$709

Candles--\$2

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



Holy Family Reflection

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

There is more hunger in the world for love and appreciation in this world than for food. (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

Lector	
<u>December 26:</u>	Greg Gough Kathi Skidd
<u>January 2:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Barbara Bisel
<u>January 9:</u>	Jacques Williams Sarah Malone
Eucharistic Minister	
<u>December 26:</u>	Barbara Bisel
<u>January 2:</u>	Rita Moorman
<u>January 9:</u>	Misty Sanford

Prayer to the Holy Family

*Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family
one with you.*

*Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant
that love,*

*strengthened by grace, may prove
mightier than all the*

*weaknesses and trials through which our
families*

*sometimes pass. May we always have
God at the center*

*of our hearts and homes until we are all
one family,*

*happy and at peace in our true home
with you. Amen*

Cherish the Gift of Family

On this Feast of the Holy Family, a thread of family and community themes appear throughout the Scripture Readings, examples to which we can relate in our own experiences: gratitude, joy, love, even parental anxiety! Do you believe that holiness in your family is possible, or do you think that holiness is out of reach? This doesn't mean we are comparing ourselves to The Holy Family, but rather following their example. Consider those you regard as family; this might include those to whom you are related biologically, spiritually, or through a bond of friendship. Families can be large or small, blended or separated, whole or somewhat fractured. As disciples, we are called to cherish and care for the gift of family as best we can. In what ways might you give thanks for family in the coming year? We are called to do likewise for our larger family—our parish and greater community. This is always true but becomes especially into focus as we are called to offer assistance, support, and prayers for all those affected by the recent tornadoes.

Donna Taratino--Stewardship/Volunteer Coordinator



Readings for the Week

Monday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 /Jn 20:1, 2-8
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-5, 7-8 /Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6 /Lk 2:22-35
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13 /Jn 1:1-18
Saturday:	Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 /Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Observances for the week of Dec. 26

Monday:	St. John, Apostle Evangelist
Tuesday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr
Friday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Saturday:	New Year's Day; Mary, The Holy Mother of God; World Day of Peace

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of St. Stephen, the first Christian martyr. Stoned outside Jerusalem, he died praying for his executioners. He was one of the seven deacons who helped the apostles; he was "filled with faith and with the Holy Spirit," and was "full of fortitude." The Church draws a comparison between the disciple and his Master, emphasizing the imitation of Christ even unto the complete gift of self. His name is included in the Roman Canon. St. Stephen is the patron saint of the Owensboro Diocese



HOME IS WHERE THE FAMILY IS

The idea, dream, and reality of family is so strong and durable that we use it to describe all that is best about human gatherings. We speak of the family of nations, of our church and parish families. The greatest compliment we can pay a friend or gracious host is to say that we feel at home with them; we feel part pf the family.

Families are the first crucibles in which love is tested and tempered. Jesus himself was one of three people who lived in the shadow of each other. This family, like our own, did not always “get it right,” but they always tried to. These three “amateurs” were on holiday, and one of them got lost. Two were worried sick and took great measures to find the third, a boy after all, who was seeking the meaning of his calling. He fund his vocation to do his Father’s work--but he also returned home with his parents. (JS Paluch)

Pray for St. Stephen Cathedral whose feast day is this week. We ask God’s blessing on all members. We ask God to shower them with His goodness as they continue His compassionate outreach to all. We at Blessed Sacrament Chapel have a special connection to this Mother Church of the diocese.