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# Blessed Sacrament

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

[www.blessedsacramentchapel.org](http://www.blessedsacramentchapel.org) or email at [pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto: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](mailto:john.thomas@pastoral.org)

**Parochial Vicar:** Fr. Sinoj Pynadath HGN

[sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org](mailto:sinoj.pynadath@pastoral.org)

**Parish Life Coordinator:** Sr Jeannette Fennwald, SSND  
[pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org](mailto:pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org)



Dec. 5 2nd Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. (Luke 3:4)

## TODAY'S READING

**First Reading:** Take off your robe of mourning and misery, put on the splendor of glory from God. (Baruch 5: 1-9)

**Psalm:** The Lord has done great things for us: we are filled with joy (Psalm 126)

**Second Reading:** I am confident that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. (Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11)

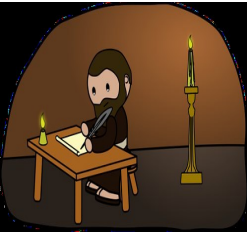
**Gospel:** The winding roads shall be made straight and the rough ways made smooth. (Luke 3: 1-6)

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass  
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*The one who began a good work in you  
will continue to complete it.*

# From the desk of Father Sinoj



Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings! I believe you all have made a great beginning of the Season of Advent. Let us make all the efforts to “prepare” for the coming of Christ into our hearts. Today, the second Sunday of Advent challenges us to make a royal highway in our hearts so that we may receive Jesus as our saving God on Christmas.

The Gospel speaks of John the Baptizer who preached a baptism of repentance preparing the way for Christ. He challenged the Jews to prepare their lives for receiving their long-awaited Messiah, by leveling the mountains of pride and the valleys of impurity, injustice and neglect and straightening their crooked ways. He is challenging us too; to get ready for something so great that it fills our emptiness with expectation. Our repentance means a great deal for God. Therefore, an important goal for us in the Advent Season shall be to sanctify our hearts through repentance to receive the Lord.

This Wednesday, Dec 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a Holy Day of Obligation and patronal Feast of the USA. We will have Holy Mass on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. I encourage you to celebrate the Eucharist on this Solemnity. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, Pray for us!

😊😊😊 Always  
😊😊😊 Keep  
😊😊😊 Smiling!

God Loves you!!!

Father Sinoj, HGN

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Look around most Catholic Churches and you will discover an image of John the Baptist, often in the old baptistery, or in a window near where the font is or was located. He has two feast days in the calendar: one commemorating his birth and the other his death. There are only three nati- vities in our calendar: for Jesus, for Mary, and for the Baptist. John’s birthday is reckoned according to the schedule given in Luke’s Gospel of the angel’s announcement to Mary. The angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth is in the sixth month of pregnancy, and so Mary hastens to help her. Reckoning Christmas as December 25, we count backwards nine months to March 25 for the Feast of the Annunciation.. Then we count forward three months to June 24 for John the Baptist’s birth. Halfway to Christmas, his nativity gives ample reason for rejoicing in the summer, and his symbols of fire and water are used playfully in bonfires and dives into the sea. Even at the polar opposite of Christmas in the calendar, the energy of Christ’s birth in the Incarnation provides cause for rejoicing. (JS Paluch)

## RAFFLE BASKET WINNERS

Thanks to each of you for your participation.  
The proceeds from the two baskets was \$1234.

*And whose name is that?????*



Misty Sanford with the Christmas Basket



Rita Moorman with the Sports Basket

What a Christmas Gift!



December Birthdays

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



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 and King of kings.

Mass Intentions

December 5--Herbert Millay  
  
December 7--Jerome and Tom Fenwick  
  
December 12--Vincent & Mary Phoebe Ebelhar  
  
December 19--Herbert Millay  
  
December 24--Donald Moorman  
  
December 26--Paul Knott

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: Shirley Schmidt, Carol Hatchett, Stephen Hall, Colton Braungardt, Doris Smith, Debbie Bellwood, Janice Taul, Merle Griffith, Tyler Cruppi, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Larry Allen, 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](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register.

Coming Events  
CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

December 7--6 PM Mass  
  
December 8--Feast of Immaculate Conception  
7 AM and 12--Mass at SSC  
  
December 19--Church decorating  
  
December 24--7 PM Mass  
  
December 26--10 AM Mass



Nov. 28--\$995  
  
Weekly Budget--\$962  
  
MTD collections--\$4466  
  
MTD budget--\$3848  
  
YTD collection-\$23,734  
  
YTD budget---\$21,164

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



PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Today’s Gospel reminds us to, “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.*” We are called to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. How can we *prepare the way of the Lord* in our daily lives this Advent? We can:

- set aside quiet time each day for prayer
- examine our lives, habits, and sins, and ask for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- take time during this busy season of preparation to be thankful for the blessings in our lives
- discern whether we are sharing our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to serve our parish and greater community

These are just a few ways in which we can cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus this Advent not only to celebrate His birth, but to prepare our lives and hearts for eternal life. In quiet prayer, can you discern some more ways?

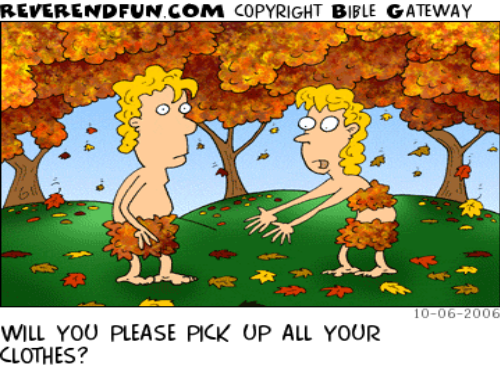
St. Nicholas | Feast Day December 6

St. Nicholas of Bari (March 15, 270 – December 6, 343), the bishop of Myra in the fourth century, is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man’s house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution. Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

Lector	
<u>December 5:</u>	Greg Gough Barbara Bisel
<u>December 7:</u>	Kathi Skidd
<u>December 12:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Jacques Williams
Eucharistic Minister	
<u>December 5:</u>	Misty Sanford
<u>December 7:</u>	Vivian Higgs
<u>December 12:</u>	Rita Moorman

**Laugh of the Week**  
Time's A Wastin'

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas before a long holiday weekend. 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's the same in my business."



**Liturgical Update**

As humans, all of our senses are part of who we are as a complete person. Our Catholic faith uses this belief as we worship. Incense, art work, statues, music all help us lift our minds to God.

Bells call us to worship. For centuries, the practice was to ring a bell at certain times of Mass, especially when the Holy Spirit is called down and at the words of consecration.

When the Mass was celebrated in Latin, fewer and fewer people understood the language and the priest had his back to the people. A bell was rung to assist the people. After Vatican II when Mass was again celebrated in the language of the people and many of the complex rituals of the Mass were simplified, the ringing of the bells became optional.

The current rubrics of the Mass allow for a small bell to be rung as a signal and at each elevation. Some people believe that the ringing of the bell is important because of a decline of faith in the holy Eucharist as truly being the Body and Blood of Christ. By ringing the bell, we receive a subtle reminder to "pay attention.. Jesus is here."

Beginning with the new liturgical year, (Nov. 28) the bells will be rung during the Eucharistic prayer. We will also begin in-pew collection at Offertory time.

**Readings for the Week**

Monday:	Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9-14 / Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-3 and 10-13 /Mt 18:12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4 / Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9-13/Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4 and 6 /Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9-13

**Observances for the week of Dec. 5**

Monday:	St. Nicholas, Bishop
Tuesday:	St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	The Immaculate Concep- tion of the Blessed Virgin
Thursday:	St. Juan Diego
Friday:	Our Lady of Loretto
Saturday:	St. Damasus I, Pope

**Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception?**

Since the beginning of the Church, the Blessed Virgin Mary has been regarded as the holiest and the most blessed of all disciples. The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception places Our Lady before the faithful as an example of what God can do and what we can do, if like Mary, we put ourselves in God's hands and at God's service, always open to what God asks and always seeking to fulfill God's will. It encourages us to do our best to remain free from sin. In the course of our life, because of human weakness, we fail and commit sin. The Immaculate Conception reminds us that if we cooperate with God's grace, as did Mary, we can lead a life as free from sin as is humanly possible.

**Awaiting the Salvation of God**

The world does not seem big enough to contain the jubilation of the first reading. In the Gospel reading the Roman empire isn't big enough, either. The great powers of Rome are named and made to stand waiting for the arrival of god's salvation. And we find Paul meditating joyfully on what really matters.

According to Baruch, the city of Jerusalem is like a person standing on tiptoe looking for God's salvation, which is coming from the east. Those who were led away on foot, heads down, now come back, a proud people. Why, the very way is smoothed out. The path is lined with fragrant, lush trees.

It can't get any better than this, can it? Well, yes. It can. For a voice calls out in the desert. Here is the beginning of the salvation of God. (Copyright JS Paluch Co.)



**Feast of Immaculate Conception**

**December 8 Holyday**

Masses: Dec. 7 6 PM at BSC

Dec. 8 7 AM and 12 PM SSC