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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: Father Shibu Cheriyankunel

mocshibu.cheriyankunel@pastoral.org

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



December 18, 2022 4th Sunday of Advent

They shall name him "Emmanuel" which means "God is with us." Matthew 1:23

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel. (Is 7:3-4)

Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

Second Reading:

The gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh, but established as Son of God in power. (Rom 1:15)

Gospel:

The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. (Mt 1:20)



My Dear Parishioners:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us pray. I abandon myself into your hands Do with me whatever you will. Whatever you do, I thank you: I am ready for all; I accept all. Let only your will be done in me. I wish no more than this. Without reserve Boundless confidence. Amen. This is the Prayer of Abandonment. I keep it before me almost always. But I have to say there are many, many times in my life when I have not PRAYED this prayer, but only READ it. This prayer makes me know what a spiritual infant I really am.

I cannot think of prayer that is more “counter-cultural” than “The Prayer of Abandonment.” In our world, giving up control is for the weak and the lost. It certainly is not for people who know what they want in life. I mean, really, what kind of a person gives up his/her own ambitions so that someone else, even God can call the shots? What if he wants me to live as a homeless person? What if he wants me to give all of my possessions away? - - What if he takes away my livelihood? - - What if he wants ME to live an unnoticed, boring and mundane life? I am often ashamed to admit that I want to be popular and well-liked. So what if that gets in the way of my spiritual development. - - What if I pray this prayer and he takes away my health and I am called to suffer and die young - - and I’ve told him this was okay? What if he took away the people that I hold dear? What if he asked me to dig ditches or clean out pigpens or change diapers at a nursing home for the rest of my life, all and only for his glory? - - without reserve and to THANK HIM I can’t pray this prayer! It is too scary! Sometimes all I can do is to pray for A DESIRE to accept abandonment. When you really think about spiritual abandonment, the passive acceptance of trials and sufferings that are aimed at drawing us closer to God, it is not for the faint of heart. You have to be rock solid in your faith. You have to be gutsy. I have seen some pretty gutsy people of faith in my life that walked away from all kinds of worldly successes to do the will of God in a spirit of abandonment. They are amazing people and amazing things happen because of them.

The Blessed Virgin Mary was that kind of person. Let it be done, Angel, as you say. I’ll have this baby. Do we realize what kind of strength of spirit that had to be in her? Can you imagine the fears and questions that could have stopped the Blessed Mother from fulfilling her true destiny? What will people think? What will Joseph think? - - Will people believe me? Will they think I am crazy or demon possessed? - - Will they think that I am a “lose” woman trying to get out of a pinch and stone me? - - What will happen to my child? - - Will I be happy? Will he be happy? Will he be loved? - - Will people treat him fairly? - - What if, What if, What if? But Mary said “yes.” And of course, it was just a few months later that Simeon turned to her in the temple as Mary and Joseph presented the child Jesus to God and said, You realize, that because of him your heart will be broken - - your heart will be pierced through. She still didn’t run. She didn’t hide. She accepted, with ‘gratitude, boundless confidence, and without reserve.”

During the Sundays of Advent, we are called to consider the MESSAGE of the angel and the EXAMPLE of Mary. When we see her total commitment and abandonment to the will of God, we realize the crisis of our modern day - - the refusal to be open to the will of God because He just might ask us to step out of our comfort zone. He just might ask us to release control. The question always has been and always will be - “What if?” - - What if the rug is pulled out from under us? Will we still be able to rejoice in God? What if God speaks to us - - and I believe he does - - and asks us to do radical things for Him? Have we spiritually prepared ourselves to accept not only the blessings but also the crosses for what He will teach us and others through our lives and our example? As we draw ever closer to the great day of Christmas, let us pray for the desire to abandon ourselves to God, not searching out pain, suffering and misfortune, but being open to accepting anything to further the Kingdom as Mary did. Let us pray for the strength to give ourselves totally to Him, so that he can work through us in whatever way he chooses.. Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a “carol” anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. “Carol” comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren’t for church, since the language of the liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn’t make it into church services until the 1870’s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn’t admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn’t make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol “Silent Night” comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church’s organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990’s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the “Silent Night Memorial Chapel” at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night! James Field copyright J.S. Paluch Co.

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I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

Thanks to Cindy Clark, Michelle Jones, and Brian Bumm for their leadership and sharing of their talents in completing the sanctuary renovations. Thanks also to them for designing the large vent cover and to Dan Clark for bringing the design to life.

December Birthdays

16--Yulanda Williams
18--Robert Johnson
24--Susan Mutter



IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. For the past quarter we received \$130.93. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Safe Environment

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (800-422-4453); local law enforcement (800-752-6200); or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597-2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available at this parish (in the bookshelf in back of the church), in the parish office, and also on the diocesan website. To make a report of sexual abuse of a minor and related misconduct by bishops, go to ReportBishopAbuse.org or call 1-800-276-1562

Mass Intentions

December 11--Linda Clark
December 18--Betty and John Clark
December 24--Donald Moorman
January 1--Stephen Hall
January 8--Betty ad 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: Mariyam Pynadath, Rachel Mattingly, Carol Hatchett, Sister Janice Fennwald, Charlie Brown Sr, Nancy Bumm, Kate Quinn, Larry Leachman, Teresa Woods, Larry Allen, Jordan Gertisen, Buddy Adcock, Debbie Moseley, Donna Kaelin, Colin Holahan, Janice Taul, Merle Griffith, Pam Wilson, Frank & Gloria Adams, Shelby Webster, Louise Johnson, Ruth Coble, Larry Conder, Mike Coakley, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman, Camilla Greer, Philip 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.2701 Frederica St., Room 3107, 42301; Shelby Webster 1226 Independence, 42301 Georgia Holland 1360 Coppergate Ln. St. Louis, MO 63138 lives in St. Louis but stays active in BSC. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

Advent Penance Services
12/18 St. Stephen 2 pm
12/20 Precious Blood 6 pm
12/22 St. Mary Magdalene, Sorgho

Coming Events
CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

December 18--Decorate church after Mass
December 24--Christmas Eve Mass 7pm
January 1--10 am Mass



Dec. 11--\$785
Weekly Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$1850.50
MTD Budget--\$2116
YTD Collection--\$29,316.69
YTD Budget--\$23,276

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

Have you thought about donating to BSC online? It’s safe. It’s simple. It’s convenient. You can use your debit or credit card, checking or saving account. WeShare (on website)

St. Joseph the Steward

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God’s Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, “he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home.”

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Renovated Sanctuary



Lectors

Dec. 18: Jacques Williams
Barbara Bisel
Dec. 24: Layson Brooks
Misty Sanford
Jan. 1: Connie Clary
Kathi Skidd

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 18: Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford,
Vivian Higgs
Dec. 24: Rita Moorman
Jan. 1: Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone,
Charlene Meadows

Collection & Gifts

Dec. 18:
Dec. 24: Michelle Jones, Barbara
Hammond
Jan. 1: Malone Family

Readings for the Week

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-6/
Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 /Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8/
Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79

Observances for the Week of Dec. 18

Wednesday: St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Saturday: Christmas Eve
Next Sunday: The Nativity of the Lord

SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent’s scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today’s Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph’s courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we’re summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God’s holy word. Like Joseph, we are led to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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Thanks to each of you who have made a pledge or contributed in some way to update our chapel. Phase 1 is almost complete. Phase 2 is the replacement of windows. Donations may be made toward the windows (\$800). When we receive needed donations, we will begin this Phase. Please keep all in prayers as together we serve the Lord with the gifts He gave us.



CHRISTMAS CHILDREN

It is good to be children sometimes,
and never better than at Christmas.

Charles Dickens

O Antiphons

The O Antiphons refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah: *O Sapientia* (O Wisdom), *O Adonai* (O Lord), *O Radix Jesse* (O Root of Jesse), *O Clavis David* (O Key of David), *O Oriens* (O Rising Sun), *O Rex Gentium* (O King of the Nations), and *O Emmanuel*. Also, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.