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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:** Father Shibu Cheriyanunnel

[mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org](mailto:mocshibu.cheriyankunnel@pastoral.org)

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



**December 25, 2022 Christmas**  
A light will shine on us this day;  
the Lord is born for us. Psalm 97

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

For a child is born to us, a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests. (Is 9:5)

### Psalm:

Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord. (Ps 96)

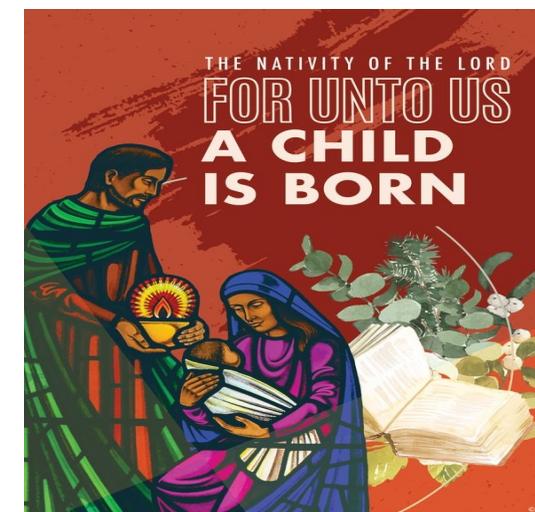
### Second Reading:

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, saving all. (Ti 2:11)

### Gospel:

"Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord." (Lk 2:10-11)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. International Commission on English



## The Nativity of the Lord

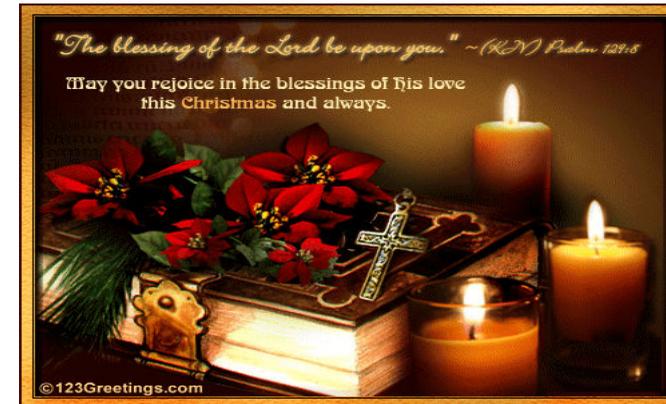
As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas! ©LPi

## 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.**



**Merry Christmas!**

**May the Christmas season be filled with many blessings as we share our love with those we meet.**

**Father John Thomas, Father Shibu, Father Thomas, Sister Jeannette**

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

An old joke asks, "What time is Midnight Mass?" The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of "midnight" predates clock time with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as "The Shepherds' Mass," and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus' birth to focus on the key to the day's celebration: John the Evangelist's majestic theology of Christ's identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day,, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you're officially late

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## Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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## December/January Birthdays

16--Yulanda Williams  
 18--Robert Johnson  
 24--Susan Mutter  
 3--Parker Malone



## IMP—Kroger

If you do not have a community reward partner at Kroger, please designate Blessed Sacrament. Blessed Sacrament's # is WX799. Go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com) to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

### Question:

Why do we give gifts at Christmas?

### Answer:

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

## Mass Intentions

December 24--Donald Moorman  
 January 1--Stephen Hall  
 January 8--Betty ad John Clark  
 January 16--Sandy Dyer  
 January 23--Stephen Hall

*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 Fennewald, 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.

## LOVE

**Let those who never loved before, love now: Let those who always loved, love the more.**

## Coming Events

## CALENDAR



### Blessed Sacrament Chapel

January 1--10 am Mass  
 January 12--Scripture sharing resumes



Dec. 18--\$1532

Weekly Budget--\$1058

MTD Collection--\$4,914.50

MTD Budget--\$3,174

YTD Collection--\$30,848.69

YTD Budget--\$24,334

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)

## Being the Sign

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

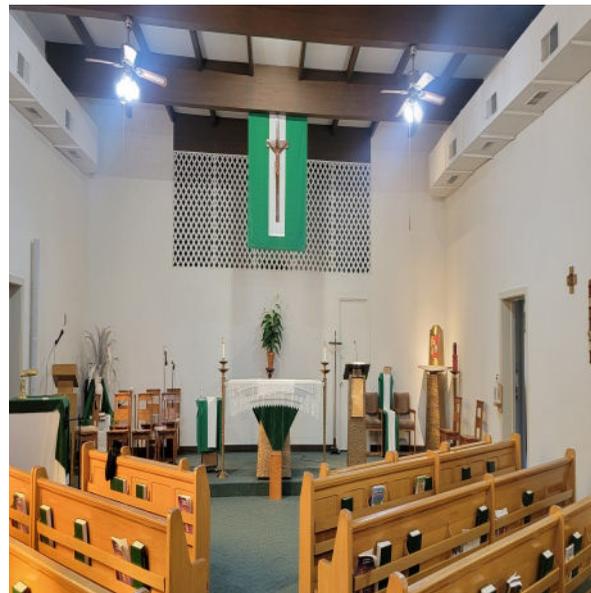
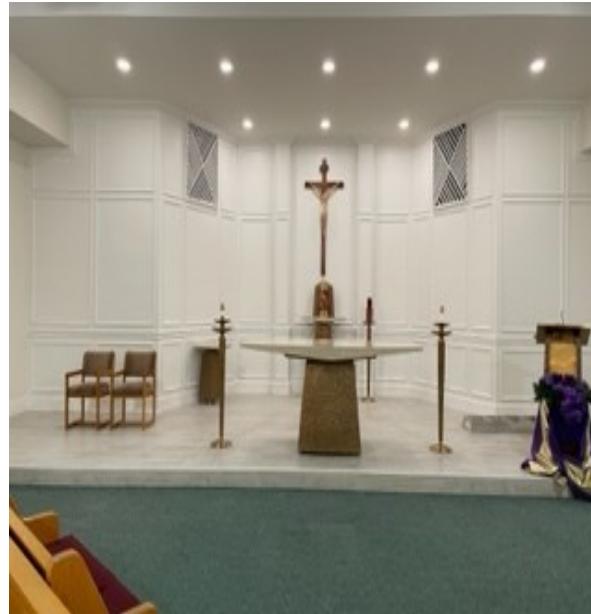
How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It's our job to show them.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## Renovated Sanctuary



<b>Lectors</b>
<u>Dec. 24:</u> Layson Brooks Misty Sanford
<u>Jan. 1:</u> Connie Clary Kathi Skidd
<u>Jan. 8:</u> Alexis Hatchett Greg Gough
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>
<u>Dec. 24:</u> Rita Moorman
<u>Jan. 1:</u> Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone, Charlene Meadows
<u>Jan. 8:</u> Janet Clark, Lori Robinson, Misty Sanford
<b>Collection &amp; Gifts</b>
<u>Dec. 24:</u> Michelle Jones, Barbara Hammond
<u>Jan. 1:</u> Malone Family
<u>Jan. 8:</u> Ron and Joyce Moorman

***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). 24 windows total. We hope to complete renovations by our 75th Anniversary (2024) Please keep all in prayers as together we serve the Lord with the gifts He gave us.***

## Readings for the Week

Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3-4, 6-8, 16-17/Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ Jn 20:1-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-3, 5-6/ Lk 2:22-35
Friday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 /Ps 128:1-5/ Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/ Jn 1:1-18

## Observances for the Week of Dec. 25

Monday:	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Tuesday:	St. John, Apostle, Evangelist
Wednesday:	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
Thursday:	St. Thomas Becket, Bishop
Friday:	Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Saturday:	St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve
Next Sunday:	Mary, The Holy Mother of God, National Migration Week, World Day of Peace



## THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD

On this day of gifts and gift-giving, it seems appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the great gift of God's Word. Because it is creative, God's Word always points to its author, always calls us to respond. Because it is powerful, God's Word can link the sublime with the ridiculous, the transcendent with the immanent, the divine with the human. Because it is graceful, God's Word establishes a relationship of deep intimacy between us and God.

At the heart of God's Word lies a tantalizing tension between the mysterious and the mundane. In our liturgical celebration, this unresolved tension both reveals the meaning of life for us and call us to respond to act upon that meaning.

Once accepted and opened, the gift of God's Word is a gift that keeps on giving and keeps on calling us to give in return. It dares us to be like the gift-giver and to become gifts for others, not only at Christmas, but at every moment of life.

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**St. Stephen, patron saint of our Cathedral and mother church. Pray for the priests and members of the Cathedral Parish. Feast Dec. 26**  
**St. Stephen**, (died 36 CE, Jerusalem; feast day December 26, one of the first Christian [deacons](#) in [Jerusalem](#) and the first Christian [martyr](#), His defense of his faith before the rabbinic court enraged his Jewish audience, and he was taken out of the city and stoned to death. His final words, a prayer of forgiveness for his attackers, echo those of [Jesus](#) on the cross. Stephen is the [patron saint](#) of deacons and stone-masons