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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 CherianKunnel

moc_shibu.cheriankunnel@pastoral.org

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



December 3, 2022 2nd Sunday of Advent
The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea. Is. 11:9

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Psalm

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever. (Psalm 72)

Second Reading:

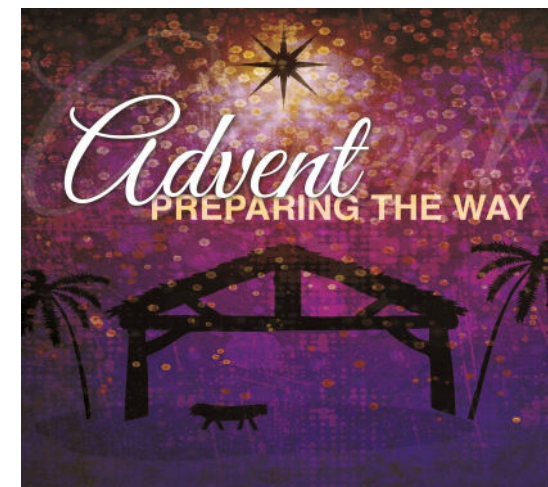
Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you. (Romans 15:4-9)

Gospel

Produce good fruit worthy of your Baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near.

(Matthew 3:1-12)

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



My Dear Parishioners:

Three drunken men were walking down the road. The first one noticed the wind, and said, “It’s windy, isn’t it?” The second one replied, “No. It’s Thursday.” The third guy said, “Yes, me too. Let’s get some more beer.”

The three men were not able to hear each other properly because they were drunk. Alcohol impairs the senses. When a person is drunk not only with alcohol, but also figuratively drunk with the pleasures and concerns of this world – promiscuity, lust, rivalry, jealousy, ambition – he will surely be deaf to truth and right reason, and definitely, deaf also to God’s voice.

According to medical findings, more and more people nowadays, especially the young, have defective hearing faculties. This generation is turning deaf. With cell phones and iPods stuck to their ears all the time, this is expected. With noise and sound at all times, and with defective ears, who will hear the word of God? With all the excitement and attractions all around, who will be interested to listen to teachings about salvation and eternal life?

Back when portable sound systems were still unknown People would be excited to hear the clanging of a tin can. That means the town crier is going around reading an announcement from the office of the mayor. They would run to the street corner and listen to the announcement, and rush back home to relay the news to others. As expected, the news reaches every nook and cranny of the town. That’s because there was no other competing sound or noisy distraction in the town.

This was similar to the condition during the time of John the Baptist. He was the “voice crying out in the wilderness”. The people flocked to him and listened to his message. This does not happen anymore nowadays. Although the amazing technological inventions have made communications faster and easier, it has also brought in more noise, distractions and confusion among the people. The voice of truth is muffled, and the facts are subjected to manipulations and distortions. Worst of all, the voice of God is drowned and rendered irrelevant and ineffective in the world.

On this second Sunday of Advent, the image of St. John the Baptist is presented to us to remind us of two things. First, we need to heed the call of the Precursor. His call to repentance is serious and urgent, for he knows how infinitely destructive the evil of sin is. Sin, even only venial sin, is more destructive than any calamities because it pertains to the eternal order, affecting the soul for eternity. The worst calamity ever that is happening now in the world is the loss of the sense of sin among many people. They are not anymore afraid of God. They do not mind if they offend Him. They do not see and feel the need to repent. I am sure most of us here know of some Catholics who publicly live in habitual mortal sin and still regularly receive Holy Communion. Many sins, even the most grievous ones, are tolerated and justified. As a result, the world has now come up with a new set of moral standards. Morality depends not anymore on God’s laws and natural laws but on what the majority decides. Pope Francis in his writings is calling us back to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He said (especially to us priests), “The confessional is not to be a torture chamber, but a place of mercy”.

Second, we need to become precursors ourselves. John announced the first coming of Jesus. But He will come again, and this time, no longer as an Infant in a manger, but as the Glorious Judge of both the living and the dead. As Christians, it is our duty to continually remind ourselves and other people about this and to lead them to repentance and conversion. We are called to be the new John the Baptist of our time. We must announce the imminent coming of the Lord and point out to the people: “Look, there is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

In a remote parish, an elderly woman went to Sunday Mass. A male usher greeted her at the door and politely asked, “Where would you like to sit?” “The front row please,” the woman answered. “Oh, really?”

the usher said. “You would not want to be in that place. I tell you, the priest is really boring.” The woman looked at him and asked, “Do you happen to know who I am?” “No.” he said. “Well, I’m the mother of the priest!” The usher tried to recover from his shock. “By the way, ma’am, do you know who I am?” he asked. “No,” she said. “That’s good,” he answered.

(continued on page 7)

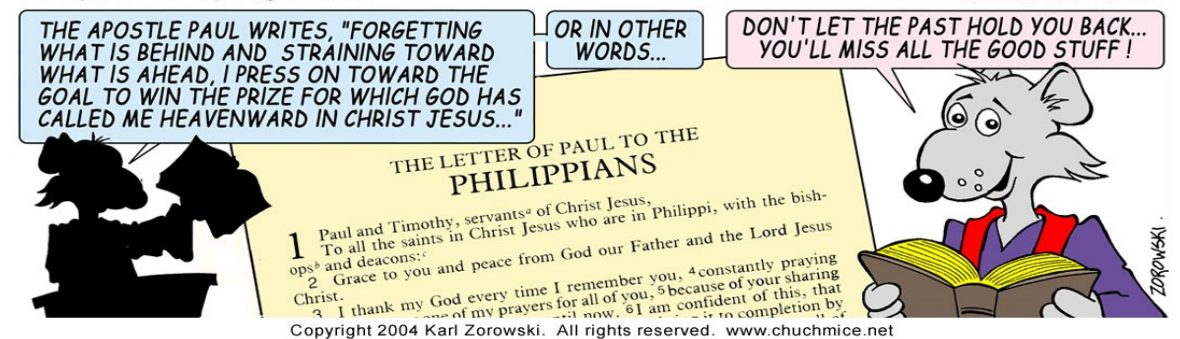
(Cont. from pg. 2) Jesus is asking us: “Do you know who I am?” More and more people do not know that Jesus Christ is the only reason for Christmas. There is no Christmas without Christ. So, the best way to celebrate this season is by having Jesus in our hearts. It is only He who can give us true and lasting peace and joy. At this time we are already contemplating on what gifts to give to our friends and loved ones. Working on a tight budget, this may not be easy. How about giving them the gifts of peace and joy? – Free of charge and infinitely more meaningful and lasting! But this will only happen through reconciliation with God. Hence, bringing a loved one or a friend to Confession during Advent is the best apostolate we can do, so that we all can receive the best gifts for Christmas: peace and joy in the Lord. And in case you were wondering . . . our Communal Reconciliation Service here at St. Stephen is Sunday, December 18 @ 2PM! Father John

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

“Outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace” is the often-memorized definition of sacrament, but through four decades of reform we have rediscovered the power of sacrament to bestow grace by re-shaping our lives as individuals and communities. Not so long ago, most people were not attentive to the nature of sacrament as an act of the Church, a power that flows from the Body of Christ. Fifty years ago, we were inclined to see a sacrament as an encounter between Christ and an individual.

Today we see that definition does not go far enough. God’s grace is not a trickle, but a gushing torrent washing over the whole Church. Like a photographer pulling back the camera for a broader picture, today we are not only interested in the person who is being baptized, reconciled, or anointed. We think about how celebrating a sacrament transforms a community. We think about the grace given by Christ to the community that baptized or marries or ordains or confirms. Sacraments are for the good of the community. Even when it appears to be a private, hidden moment, as in individual confession, a sacrament is always for the sake of the whole body, always more that “meets the eye.” Rev. James Field JSPaluch

Church Mice



Thanks to Philip and Ron Moorman for putting the new crucifix for our chapel together.

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. Blessed Sacrament’s # is WX799. Go to krogercommunityrewards.com to register. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Donation

Father O'Malley answers the phone.
"Hello, is this Father O'Malley?"
"It is"
"This is the IRS. Can you help us?" "I can."
"Do you know a Ted Houlihan?"
"I do."
"Is he a member of your congregation?" "He is."
"Did he donate \$10,000 to the church?" "He will."

POSSIBILITIES

Nothing is impossible for God and His Blessed Mother. Don Bosco.

Mass Intentions

December 4--Stephen Hall
December 7--Herbert Millay
December 11--Linda Clark
December 18--Betty and John Clark
December 25--Donald Moorman

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. Georgia Holland lives in St. Louis but stays active in BSC. A card or phone call can cheer them up.

Advent Penance Services

12/4 Lourdes 2 pm
12/11 Blessed Mother 2 pm
12/12 Immaculate 6 pm
12/14 Sts. Joe and Paul 6 pm
12/18 St. Stephen 2 pm
12/20 Precious Blood 6 pm

Coming Events
CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

December 7--Feast of Immaculate Conception 6 pm Mass
December 18--Decorate church after Mass
December 24--Christmas Eve Mass 7pm



Nov.27--\$1125
Weekly Budget--\$1058
MTD Collection--\$5,821
MTD Budget--\$4,232
YTD Collection--\$26,166.19
YTD Budget--\$21,160

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)

How Much Is Enough?

I’ve got some great news for some of you: Jesus Christ doesn’t care what name you bear. He doesn’t care where you were born, and he doesn’t care what your family tree looks like. He doesn’t care where you grew up or where you went to school. I’ve also got some bad news for some of you: See above.

It’s so easy to take our salvation for granted. The mercy of God makes it so. Look at John the Baptist — he was pouring water on everybody who wanted it. Everybody but one group: those who expected it. Those who thought it was a given because of who they were, because of what they were. Those who had no intention of doing the work of repentance.

Sometimes, because God is so faithful, we make the mistake of forgetting that He is also just. I am baptized, we think. I made my First Communion, and I was Confirmed. That’s enough. I went to Catholic school. I know all the Ten Commandments and I can tell you anything you want to know about the Popes. That’s enough. I’m on parish council. I put money in the basket, and I volunteer. That’s enough.

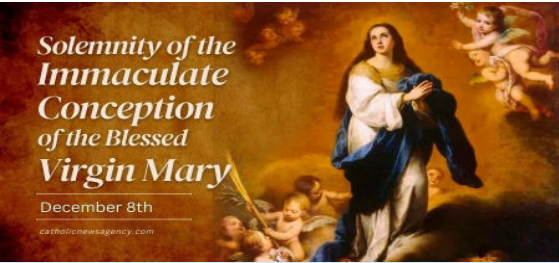
None of it is enough. It would never be enough. And before we look upon the Pharisees and Sadducees with too much judgment, we need to remember: the work of repentance is ongoing. It is a process that we must commit to within ourselves, continuously.

God is the missing element to this equation. He is the one who raises children to Abraham from the stones. If we rely only on our own abilities, our own merits, our own offerings, it will never be enough. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

	Lectors
<u>Dec. 4:</u>	Alexis Hatchett Kathi Skidd
<u>Dec. 11:</u>	Greg Gough Sarah Malone
<u>Dec. 18:</u>	Jacques Williams Barbara Bisel
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>Dec. 4:</u>	Greg Gough, Vivian Higgs, Sarah Malone
<u>Dec. 11:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Janet Clark, Charlene Meadows
<u>Dec. 18:</u>	Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford, Lori Robinson
	Collection & Gifts
<u>Dec. 4:</u>	Karen Leachman,, Alvin Leachman
<u>Dec. 11:</u>	Fain family

Laugh of the Week

A little boy was overheard talking to himself as he strutted through the backyard, wearing his baseball cap, and toting a ball and bat. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he announced. Then, he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed. "Strike One!" he yelled. Undaunted, he picked up the ball and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" He tossed the ball into the air. When it came down, he swung again and missed. "Strike Two!" he cried. The boy then paused a moment to examine his bat and ball carefully. He spit on his hands and rubbed them together. He straightened his cap and said once more, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" Again, he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed. "Strike Three!" "Wow!" he exclaimed. "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"



O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, On your feast day I come to you, And I come not alone: I bring with me all those with whom your Son entrusted to me in the entire world, That you may bless them and preserve them from harm.

I bring to you, Mother, children, Especially those who are alone, abandoned, And for this reason are tricked and exploited. I bring to you, Mother, families, Who carry forward life and society With their daily and hidden efforts; In a special way the families who struggle the most For their many internal and external problems. I bring to you, Mother, all workers, both men and women, And I entrust to you especially those who, out of need, Are forced to work in an unworthy profession And those who have lost work or are unable to find it.

We are in need of your immaculate gaze, To rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things With respect and awareness, Without egotistical or hypocritical interests. We are in need of your immaculate heart, To love freely, Without secondary aims but seeking the good of the other, With simplicity and sincerity, renouncing masks and tricks. We are in need of your immaculate hands, To caress with tenderness, To touch the flesh of Jesus In our poor, sick, or despised brethren, To raise up those who have fallen and support those who waver. We are in need of your immaculate feet, To go toward those who know not how to make the first step, To walk on the paths of those who are lost, To find those who feel alone. We thank you, O Mother, because in showing yourself to us You free us of all stain of sin You remind us that what comes first is the grace of God, The love of Jesus Christ who gave his life for us, The strength of the Holy Spirit which renews all things. Let us not give in to discouragement, But, trusting in your constant help, Let us engage ourselves fully in renewal of self, Pray for us, Holy Mother of God!
Pope Francis

Readings for the Week

- Monday: Is. 35: 1-10, Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday: Is. 40: 1-11, Matt. 18:12-14
Wednesday Is. 40:25-31, Matt.:11:28-30
Thursday: Genesis 3:9-15, 20 Eph.1:3-6,11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Friday: Is. 48:17-19, Matt.: 11: 16-19
Saturday: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11. Matt. 17:9-13

Observances for the Week of Dec. 4

- Tuesday: St. Nicholas
Wednesday: St. Ambrose
Thursday: Feast of Immaculate Conception--Holy Day
Friday: St. Juan Diego
Saturday: Our Lady of Loreto

WONDERS

The normal response to a surprise is amazement, gratitude, and delight.. By definition, we don't anticipate surprises. Their occurrence reminds us that we cannot always guess or shape the future. Granted, we do what we can do; we attend to the daily tasks, as we must. For grace is surely here in the mundane, and God is in the details. But God is in the happy surprises, too.

Today's readings are filled with startling developments. We hear the clarion cry of one of those rare prophets announcing the coming of the Lord. Isaiah proclaims startling, surprising images of the nearly impossible reconciliation of opposites: calf and lion, leopard and young goat, child and serpent. Isaiah's vision sees all of these creatures living in harmony. This is Eden again; this is paradise. It is God's surprise and promise.

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Thanks to everyone who helped with the Thanksgiving dinner. It takes many people to make it successful.



A Shout-out to Kitty Board and Guy Connors who have helped us so much over the years. Thank you so much for your generous volunteer hours.

