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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, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. 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 hall, and on the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>). 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



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

jthomas@sscobo.org

Parochial Vicar: Father Christopher Grief

cgrief@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Monica Seaton, OSU

office@bscobo.org



November 30, 2025

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isa 2:5)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

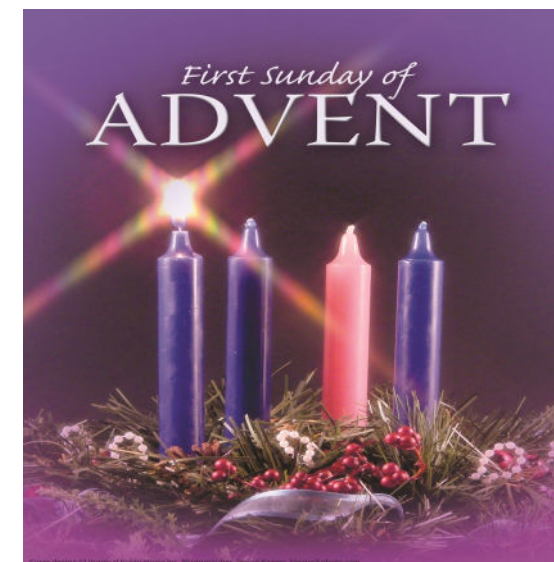
Second Reading:

You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Gospel:

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." (Mt 24:44)

from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



My Dear Parishioners:

We come to the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of preparation, gatherings, gifts, surprises, delicious food, and uplifting music. I am, of course, aware that 'out there' preparation for Christmas began weeks ago. For weeks now, I have been seeing pictures on Facebook of peoples Christmas trees, decorated mantles, candies, and stockings. But we begin now, in the Church our intentional, sacred preparing.

Now, in the general literal sense, the word '*advent*' means '*coming of someone*,' but in the Christian Liturgical sense it specifically implies to '*the coming of Christ*.' So specifically therefore, with the start of Advent today, we begin the period of expectation and waiting for the coming of Christ, our Savior — his birth on the first Christmas day. But actually, the Lord comes to us in three ways:

1. The first coming of Jesus about 2000 years ago when he came as our Savior. This was the event long awaited for by the Jews of the Old Testament. During Advent, we re-live in our own lives their experience of waiting for the Lord's coming as our way of preparing for the anniversary of his birth, which is exciting, but also predictable.

2. The second coming is the glorious return of Jesus in future at the end of time. Risen Jesus who is now seated at the right hand of the Father will come again but this time as King and Judge of both the living and the dead. But we do not know when it will happen.

The third coming is situated between the first two comings. It is Jesus' daily coming into our hearts here and now at every moment of every day in the sacraments — very specifically through the Eucharist, and therein lies a challenge for us as well as a comfort. Thus in a general sense, the period of Advent encompasses all time- - Past, Present & Future. So, a Christian in this sense is always a citizen of Advent. Therefore, it is not surprising that we begin the new Liturgical Year this Sunday, with the same theme of '*the coming of Christ*', where we ended it last Sunday.

Again, we have about 4 weeks of Advent and the 4 Sundays of Advent are supposed to prepare us for the celebration of Christmas. During these four weeks therefore, the Church invites us to enter into the longing of those who first waited for the coming of the Messiah. Scripture helps us to do this through the figures of Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary. But the Holy season of Advent has an even more important preparation in mind viz. the readiness of each one of us for the 2nd & final coming of Christ at the end of the world, spoken of in today's Gospel Reading from St. Matthew. And this we do by means of our constant & active involvement through properly welcoming Christ and receiving him in our hearts who comes to us today in sacraments.

Blessings,

Fr. John



December Birthdays

16—Yulanda Williams
18—Robert Johnson
23—Greg Richardson
24—Susan Mutter
29—Linda Wahl

Mass Intentions

November 30--Jean Murphy
December 7--Larry Allen 10am
--Parishioners of Blessed
Sacrament Chapel 6pm
December 14--Danny and Cindy Clark

Let us remember to pray for those who are dying and those who have recently died. 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:
Joanne Kendall, Rollie Pike, Larry Leachman, Dorothy Simmons, Steve Coble, Teresa Luebert, Diane Selby, Kathi Skidd, Ray Higgs, Pam Wilson, Phil Armendarez, Cindy Heckmann, Judy Stinett, Shaun Winchell, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, Charlie Brown Sr, Steven Moorman, Philip Moorman, Jr., Ronnie Hollis, Chandra Hagan, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Jordan Gertisen, Shelby Webster, Gary Moorman. **If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

Prayer for Advent – Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!

Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.

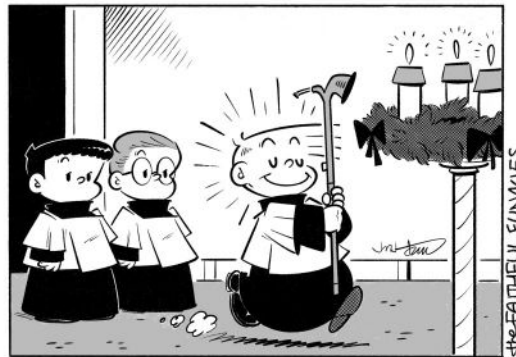
Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions. Be with us as we climb closer to You.

Amen.

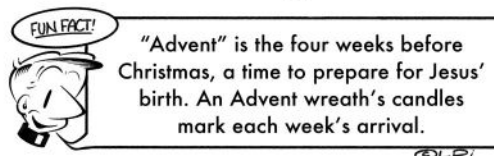
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"Was the altar server happy or sad when it was his turn to blow out the Advent candles?"



"He was de-lighted!"



Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

November 30 -- No Religious Ed

December 7 -- Religious Ed

**December 7 -- Immaculate
Conception Holy Day
Vigil Mass 6pm**



November 23--\$1,513.00

Budget--\$1,300.00

MTD Collection--\$8,566.00

MTD Budget--\$5,200.00

YTD Collection--\$41,790.59

YTD Budget--\$28,300.00

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

*Thanks to everyone who practices
stewardship on a regular basis.
An active parishioner attends Mass regularly
and practices stewardship
(time, talent, treasure).*

GOSPEL MEDITATION

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos *will* come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— Father John Muir

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
Lectors	
<u>November 30:</u>	Jacques Williams, Misty Sanford
<u>December 7:</u>	Wayne Stephens, Katie Goins
<u>December 14:</u>	Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough
Eucharistic Ministers	
<u>November 30:</u>	Rita Moorman, Michelle Jones, Holly Hollis
<u>December 7:</u>	Sr. Monica Seaton, Barbara Bisel, Greg Gough
<u>December 14:</u>	Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford, Janet Clark
Collection & Gifts	
<u>November 30:</u>	Dee and Brennah Brasher
<u>December 7:</u>	Wonet Taylor, Barbara Hammond
<u>December 14:</u>	Burnell Hamilton, Steve Coble

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Blessed Sacrament’s number is WX 99. You can register at krogercommunityrewards.com.

Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today’s Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I’m no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it’s also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don’t forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

“But how?” we ask. “And when? And where?”

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday:	Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday:	Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/ Mt 15:29-37
Thursday:	Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday:	Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31
Saturday:	Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8
Observances for the week of November 30	
Wednesday:	St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Thursday:	St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	St. Nicholas, Bishop

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.

According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

Not much else is known about this beloved saint, but regardless, his reputation as a generous man continues today.

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

This week we hear that ominous Gospel passage where Jesus tells us about people being taken from where they are and what they are doing when they least expect it, while others remain. This has been distorted by some for support into a spectacular idea of rapture, leading to many books and movies. A profitable genre has been created that sometimes preys on people’s fears.

But in following Jesus Christ, there is no fear. What we are called to do is live each day as it were our last. Be mindful of all the opportunities around you to share love and the gifts God has given you. We will all be held accountable in the end, but it is not what we have done that will save us. Our salvation lies in the grace freely given to us by Jesus. When we choose to receive that gift and intentionally follow him, we are led to giving over our entire being totally to him.

This Advent, let’s not allow ourselves to be caught up in all the craziness of the season, but instead give ourselves over to God to use for his glory. The Incarnation born in a manger is calling you. Have no fear!

— Tracy Earl Welliver

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