



“Make straight the way of the Lord”

Mass Intention for the Week

Monday, Dec. 15

6:30 AM Johnny Payne (ann of death)

Tuesday, Dec. 16

6:30 AM Marietta Alvey (health)

Wednesday, Dec. 17

6:00 PM Wedding-Leibfried Family

Thursday, Dec. 18

Noon Charles Crowe (dec)

Friday, Dec. 19

Noon Joe Early (dec B'day)

Saturday, Dec. 20

4:00 PM Johnny Payne (dec b'day)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 AM Edward J. Payne (dec)

10:00 AM Mike Foster (dec)

5:30 PM Blessed Mother Parishioners



Blessed Mother Communal Penance Service, Sunday, Dec. 14, 2pm

Liturgical Ministers for Dec. 20-21

Eucharistic Ministers

4 PM Lahoma Stinnett, Jay, Susie Fillman, Lannie Pearl, Shirley Kent, Jack Wilson, Sandra Henry, David McBride, Mike Clark

7 AM Joyce, Mike Pearl, Sr Mary Timothy, Dennis Sandefur, Mike Head, Darlene Kazlauskas

10 AM John Bell, John, Raymunda Calhoun, Ed Higdon, Kim Barnett, Jeannette, Drew Ward, Darryl, Carol Murphy

5:30 PM RParker Whitehouse, Sarah Blanford, Rick, Leesa Moman, Bobby, Phyllis Bastin

Readers

4 PM Rose Clark

7 AM Joy Bach

10 AM Barbara Cecil

5:30 PM Renee Howard

Servers

4 PM Cameron O’Nan, Sam Aull

7 AM Brittany, Courtney Estes

10 AM Elizabeth Cason, Olivia Cason

5:30PM Alex Smiley, Sara Brown

Families to Take Up Gifts

4 PM Charles Clark

7 AM Barry Estes

10 AM Patrick Cason

5:30 David Howard

Children’s Liturgy:

Stephanie Frey, Sarah Murphy, Emily Ward

Vocation Cross Family

Jennifer Patton, Sheila Payne, Steve Payne

Hillcrest: Dianne Fulkerson, Julie Hayden

Ministers of Hospitality for Dec.

4 Gerald Comes, Adam, Steve Haynes, Bill Shelton

7 Paul Edge, Tom Foster, Ed Hoskins, Bernie Dotsey

10 Charlie, Janet Kase, Dan, Micheal Goedde

5:30 Pete, Jacob, Josh Linn, Alex Bumm

**Baby Shower for Birthright
December 14, after 5:30 PM Mass
In the Parish Hall**

Need diapers, onesies, crib sheets, blankets, receiving blankets, bottles, baby lotion, powder, newborn clothing, etc.

**Everyone invited,
Games, Cake, Refreshments**

**Forming Good Stewarts
The Third Sunday of Advent**

"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
Make straight the way of the Lord."
John 1:6-8,19-28

Today we hear the story of the Baptism of Jesus from the beginning of St. John's Gospel. John adds the information that "This happened in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing." This situates the event on the east side of the Jordan River, not far from Herod's castle/fortress at Machaerus, where John would soon be beheaded. John the Baptist did not urge people to challenge the authority of leaders of the Jews or call for the overthrow of the civil government, or armed revolt. He called upon people to change their own hearts and to live according to God's Commandment to love God and our neighbor as our self. This is how we "make straight the way of the Lord." For many, like Herod, this involves radical change. It involves a humble admission that what we are is God's gift to us; what we become is our gift to God. Still struggling with a gift for Jesus? Here it is: "Make straight the way of the Lord" to enter your heart. By a humble admission of who God is in our lives.

Sunday Collection

| Actual | Budget | Month Ave. | YTD Ave. |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| \$21,779. | \$20,577. | \$21,779. | \$20,483. |

End of the Year Gifts

As we begin to get into the giving mood it becomes an opportune time to remember our church. Your gifts to the church are not only tax deductible but they also help to spread the Good News to all those around us. Please do not forget to put God and YOUR church at the top of the list this Giving Season.

Christmas Memorial Flower Contributions

Inside your packet on envelopes you will find an envelope for Christmas flowers. Place the name of your loved one on the envelope. They will be remembered at all our **Christmas Masses, 5 PM Christmas Eve, Midnight, and 9 AM Christmas Day**



The Giving Tree



Thank you so much for bringing the love of the Christ Child into the homes and lives of so many of God's children.

We ask that you please **return your gift with the tags from the tree.** (They are coded and tell us which family, individual, etc that the gift goes to.) **Please return your gift to church or the Parish Office by Dec. 17th.**

We will deliver our gifts on Monday, Dec. 20th. Anyone wishing to help with deliveries can give Jan a call at 683-8444 ext. 21.

Laugh for the Week

Fr. John decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon. Four worms were placed in four separate jars. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil. At the conclusion of the sermon, Fr. John reported the following results: The first worm in alcohol—**DEAD**. The second worm in cigarette smoke—**DEAD**. Third worm in chocolate syrup—**DEAD**. Fourth worm in good clean soil—**ALIVE**. So Fr. John asked the congregation, "What did you learn from this demonstration? Tom, sitting in the back quickly raised his hand and said, "As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!" That pretty much ended Father's sermon for the day.



Bus Trip to Washington, DC

April 30-May 5, Sponsored by the Diocesan Office of Wisdom. Cost \$575 per person double occupancy. Motor coach transportation, 6 days, 5 nights, Guided tours to WWII Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, The Smithsonian, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. Call Ginny Knight-Simon @ 683-1545 or Faith in Travel 389-1002.

Advent Communal Penance Services

| | | |
|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Dec. 14 | Blessed Mother | 2:00 pm |
| Dec. 15 | Lourdes | 6 pm |
| Dec. 17 | St. Pius X | 6 pm |
| Dec. 18 | St. Joe & Paul | 6 pm |
| Dec. 21 | St. Mary's (Whitesville) | 3 pm |
| Dec. 22 | St. William (Knottsville) | 6 pm |

Catholic Q&A

What does it mean that Mary was "assumed into heaven"? Is there any proof of this in Scripture?

What this means is that Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. When you or I die, our soul goes to heaven, but our body remains in the dirt. Mary was different. God raised her **body and soul** into heaven. Just imagine watching someone float up into the sky and out of sight. It was sort of like that.

Regarding the proof from Scripture, first note that the concept of someone being assumed into heaven is not a new one. Enoch (cf. Gen 5:24; Heb 11:5) and Elijah (cf. 2 Ki 2:11-12; 1 Mac 2:58; Sir 48:4,9) were assumed into heaven. Paul says that a third man may have been as well (cf. 2 Cor 12:2-3) and Matthew speaks of "many bodies of the saints" who were raised from the tomb after Jesus' resurrection (cf. Mt 27:52-53). So, the principle is scripturally sound. We are left only to wonder, "Did this happen to Mary?"

There are several verses that seem to indicate that it did. Space prohibits me from providing the actual passages, so you'll have to look up the references yourself. See Psa 45:9; 132:8; Song of Solomon 8:5; Rev 11:19-12:1; 12:13-14.

Now, I realize that most non-Catholics are skeptical of these passages. "What does that verse have to do with Mary?!?" they say. But, we have to keep in mind that, by the light of Christ and the teaching of the Church, we can often find meanings in Scripture that were intended by God but not necessarily intended by the human author. For example, when Isaiah said, "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son," he was literally referring to the birth of King Hezekiah. But, St. Matthew, inspired by the Holy Spirit, saw in Isaiah's words the intention of God to prophecy the coming of the Messiah. In a similar way, there's no reason to believe that behind the literal meaning of the passages listed above, we do not find the mind of the Lord regarding His mother. There is certainly nothing in Scripture that contradicts this teaching.

That said, I grant that the primary basis for the teaching of the Assumption is in the tradition of the Church, but as Catholics we should not apologize for that. After all, Scripture itself commands us to follow such tradition (cf. 1 Cor 11:2; 2 Thes 2:15; 3:6), and the Church has always believed that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven.

Peace of Christ to you,
Nicholas Hardesty
Director of Religious Education



Christmas Eve Mass at 5 PM
Midnight Mass at Midnight
Christmas Day Mass at 9 AM

TV Mass

Mass will now air on Channel 72 at 10:30 am. If you have Time Warner's digital cable the Mass can also be seen at 11am on Channel 311. It also broadcasts from News 25 (cable chaneel11) at 6am. All those with satellite can get the Mass on local Channel 25 at 6am.

Donations may be made to Gideon Productions.,
515 East 22nd St.
Owensboro, Ky. 42303

Mary: Handmaid of the Lord

Dr. Ray Schneier host on EWTN's *The Dr. Is IN*
Patty Schneier personal testimony "Prove It, God"

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8am-3pm

Blessed Mother Parish Hall

Registration \$20 ,

Extra \$5 for lunch (must be preordered)

Mail to : Marian Shrine Committee

2638 Wood Haven

Owensboro, Ky. 42303

Sponsored by the Marian Shrine Committee, for more information call Cathy Graham 683-4665.

Retrouvaille

This program has helped thousands of couples experiencing any level of difficulty in their marriage from disillusionment to deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the January program, Jan. 16-18, call 683-1545 ext. 357 or visit the web site at www.routrouvaille.org

A Christmas Gift for Married Couples

Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Feb. 13-15 at Flaget Retreat Center in Louisville—it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage. For info or to register contact Jack & Kathy Gotting at 502-895-8997 or email kgott@insightbb.com.

**Remember in prayer the
many who are sick in our community:**

Len Bach, Helen Bellwoord, Eva Birkhead, Liz, Tony Brown, Catherine Calhoun, Frances Carrico, Daniel Castlen, JB Cecil, Vincent Cecil, Joyce Christian, Paul Christian Jr., Paul Christian, Ann Clark, George Clark, James Clark, Kevin Coakley, Alice Cole, Arnold Conder, Addie Corley, Hettie Crask, Ben Crump, Leoma Daly, Dorothy Davis, Theresa Dedincent, Philip Demarest, Evelyn Denton, , Evette Duke, Sheila Duncan, Emma Dunbar, John Duncan, Kinsey Dunn, Stacy Foster, Matt Gabis, Lucille Goetz, Brenda Goodman, Luke Gray, George A. Hagan, Dottie Hamilton, Mary Hardesty, Martha Hayden, Janet Haynes, Hayden Head, Mike Head, Beverly Heppler,, Peggy Hicks, Mary Elizabeth Hill, Kenny Hodskins, Mildred Howard, Margaret Isbell, Mary Ava Jackson, Gertrude Jones, Martin Keller, Minnie Martin, Helen Matheny, Margaret Mattingly, Helen McCarty, Mildred McCarthy, Nora Mellon, Margie Meredith, Mary L. Millay, Virginia Millay, Conner Mills, Mary Morton, Alma Mullican, Lee Newton, Joann Ogle, Ethan Payne, Helen Payne, Mary Payne, Paul Payne, Lannie Joe Pearl, Carolyn Pierce, Brenda Pitt, Raymond Prater, Lawrence Quinn, Geraldine Ralph, Joyce Ramos, Isabella & Isaiah Ratliff, Otto Reisz, Vincent Reynolds, Allison Riley & baby, Linda Rouse, Cecelia Schartung, Janet Schartung, Herman, Mary Simmons, Becky Smith, Elizabeth Sosh, Susan Stersman, Onora Stone, Teresa Taucher, Larry Taylor, Mary Hilary Taylor, Angela, Leo Thompson, Betty Thompson, Charles Thompson, Martha Towery, Anita Travis, Glynda Turner, Jean Van Meter, Joyce Ventrees, Dianne Walsh, Kenny Ward, Scott Ward, Teresa Ward, Charles Wedding, Katherine Whittinghill, Bea Wooldridge, Steve Woolen, Bill, Flora Yancy

Please Pray for Our Troops Serving in War. Keep them safe, O Lord, and bring them home soon. Iraq:

PFC 1st Class Bradley Horlander, Iraq
SGT Jeremi Bosley, National Guards
Brandon Mattingly, US Army, Baghdad
Kenneth Smith (grandson in law of Agnes Edge)
Matthew Hoffman, US Army, Baghdad (great nephew of Camilla Baker)
Spec. Daniel Nugent, Iraq
Sgt. Nicholas Johnson, US Army, Baghdad (son of Scott & Sabrina Johnson)
Sgt. David Farley, US Army

In Afghanistan

Chief Master Sgt. Andrew Reisz, USAF, Khabull
Sidney Hoffman, National Guards (great niece of Camilla Baker)

Other

AIC Austin Eckstein, USAF, grandson Henrietta May
CSSR Justin Mills, Japan, grandson of Dessie Clark

Daily Bible Reading 683-8524



I hope you had a good week. Today is the Third Sunday of Advent. We continue to prepare for Christ's coming. This is the Sunday we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. The reason is from the second reading that says "rejoice always." So we are in a lighter disposition this week as we anticipate the coming of Christ. We are joyful that He is coming soon. Let us continue to prepare for that great event.

We welcome Rev. Mr. Josh McCarty who is with us this weekend, who was with us over the summer. We are glad he could take time during finals week to come share the word of God with us.

I want to thank everyone who had anything to do with the "Catch the Spirit" party. It was a good time to be with other parishioners and enjoy some wonderful food, visit with St. Nick, listen to our young people sing and see the various crafts.

Religious Ed is in session today and youth group will meet tonight after the 5:30pm Mass.

Thanks for your generous response to the Giving Tree. We put tags on the tree three different times. Way to go! You will not be rewarded by the recipients but the Lord will bless you abundantly.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have asked us to take action on a certain bill before Congress called the Freedom of Choice Act. We need to ask our Representative, Ron Lewis (ph. 202-225-3501), and our Senators Bunning (ph. 202-224-4343) and McConnell (ph. 202-224-2541) to vote against this bill that among other things will require all states to allow "partial birth" and other late-term abortions. Pray and act now.

Our Advent Penance Service is this afternoon December 14th at 2pm. Other services are listed elsewhere in the bulletin for your convenience.

Have a great week.

**Confirmation Mini Retreat #4
December 20th, 4-6 Center School Cafeteria,
10am-Noon**

Calendar for the Week

Rosary is prayed Mon.—Thurs, 4 PM

**Mon. Mass at 6:30 AM
Bunko, 1:00 PM**

**Tues. Mass at 6:30 AM
Children's Choir Practice, 2:45-3:30**

Wed. Mass at 6:00 PM

**Thurs. Mass, noon
RCIA, 7 PM**

**Fri. Eucharistic Adoration
Mass at Noon**

**Sat. Confessions, 12:30 –2:00 PM
Mass at 4 PM**

**Sun. Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday Masses at 7, 10 AM, 5:30 PM
Religious Ed Classes, 11:15 AM
Coffee and Donuts after 10 AM Mass
Youth Group 6:30 PM
AA Meeting, 8-9pm, school cafeteria**

Safe Environment

Copies of the Diocese of Owensboro's policy dealing with sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable person is available in the Parish Office and on the Diocesan web site (www.Owensborodio.org) The Bishop and Diocesan Review Board want to help anyone who has been abused in the past or is currently suffering from abuse. You may phone the Pastoral Center, 683-1545, to report an allegation of abuse. **If you need to attend a Safe Environment Workshop, contact Jan at the Parish Office. You may now take the training online at www.shieldthevulnerable.org**

Catholic Schools News

OCS Scrip Don't forget to buy your Gift Certificates from the School. Purchase Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm at the Parrish Avenue location or on weekends, Fri. 4-8pm, Sat. 8am-5pm, Sun. Noon-4pm at the K-3 Campus.

OCMS Christmas Play Mon. Dec. 15, 7pm in the Immaculate Parish Hall. The Drama Club will present "A Christmas Story."

OCS Elementary Christmas Program Tues., Dec. 16 at the Riverpark. Doors open at 5pm. The Elementary K-3 Campus will perform at 6pm and the Elementary 4-6 Campus will perform at 7:15pm

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 14 through December 21, 2008

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a,10-11 (Ps) Lk 1:46-50,53-54
1 Thes 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8,19-28

Monday: Nm 24:2-7,15-17a Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2,9-13 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2,8-10 Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8 Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7,24-25a Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16 Ps 89:2-5,27,29
Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

TEC

Attention High School Juniors & Seniors: TEC #162 January 17-19m Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp—Bowling Green, Ky. Deadline: Friday morning—January 2009. Visit our www.wkytec.org for more info or for application.

Words of Life

Advent leads the Church to the Silent Night when God Himself is revealed as one of us. This season leads us to the joy of His birth. If God has joined His nature to ours, how can we ever allow our nature to be despised? If He has come to bring us Divine Life, and will return to take us to the skies, how can it be all right to throw people in the garbage? May His birth shed protection

Parish Council Members

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Sharon Bell | 729-4270 |
| Marty Bumm | 926-6443 |
| Charlie Castlen | 683-3426 |
| Charlotte Cecil | 683-0499 |
| Tim Goetz | 684-8275 |
| David Graham | 683-4665 |
| Troy Haleman | 691-0633 |
| David Jarboe | 683-5108 |
| Ben Miller | 685-2143 |
| Rick Moman | 683-6555 |
| Darryl Murphy | 683-8437 |
| Phil Riney | 926-8945 |
| Elaine Williams | 684-5116 |
| Darlene Kazlauskas | 684-3891 |

Brescia Alumni Association Holiday Ham Sale

Dec. 20, 11m—1pm at the University's Campus Center. Hams must be reserved by Dec. 15 and picked up on Dec. 20. Field Ky. Legend, 7-8 lbs, \$30 whole, \$20 half. Call 686-2111 to order or josh.clary@brescia.edu.