

Saint Sabina Catholic Church

700 Trevis Ave. Belton, MO • www.stsabina-parish.org •
www.facebook.com/stsabina-parish • 816-331-4713

Office Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday - Thursday and 9:00am-1:00pm, Friday



A special thank you to all who made the Guadalupe Celebration a success!

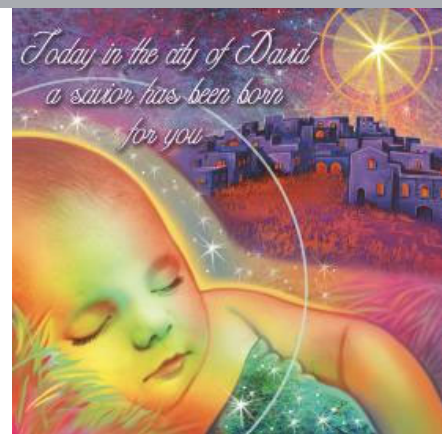
Mass Times

Saturday: 4:00pm in English

Sunday: 8:00am and 10:30am in English, 12:30pm in Spanish

Confessions: Saturdays, 3:00-3:30pm

Visit our website for Holy Day and special Mass times



Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2016

Parish Staff/Mass Intentions

Fr. Jeff Stephan , Pastor	816-979-3157 X57	frjeff@stsabinaparish.org
Deacon Mike Gates		mikeg@stsabinaparish.org
Bridget Hernandez , Stewardship and Communications/Corresponsabilidad y Comunicaciones	816-979-3159 X59	bridget@stsabinaparish.org
Kris Larkey , Business Manager/Gerente de Operaciones	816-979-3151 X51	kris@stsabinaparish.org
Biagio Mazza , Pastoral Associate/Asociado Pastoral	816-979-3153 X53	biagio@stsabinaparish.org
Susan Ratigan , Liturgist/Liturgista	816-979-3158 X58	susan@stsabinaparish.org
Kirstie Roberts , Dir. of Religious Ed. & Youth Ministry/Dir. de Educación Religiosa y Ministro de Jóvenes	816-979-3155 X55	kirstie@stsabinaparish.org
Marta Roper , Pastoral Care Coordinator/Coordinadora Pastoral	816-979-3154 X54	marta@stsabinaparish.org
Jeff Shields , Finance Coordinator/Coordinador de Finanzas	816-979-3152 X52	jeffshields@stsabinaparish.org
Tracy Wheeler , Maintenance/Mantenimiento		tracy@stsabinaparish.org
Berenice Zayas , Family Life & Hispanic Ministry/Vida de la Familia Parroquial y Ministerio Hispano	816-979-3150 X50	berenice@stsabinaparish.org

Kathleen Chastain, Diocesan Victim Advocate

816-392-0011

chastain@diocesekcsj.org

Jenifer Valenti, Diocesan Ombudsman

816-812-2500

jeniferValenti@att.net

Wellness Center/Centro de Bienestar

816-979-3090

Jeannine Midgett

816-979-3093

Patricia Moreno

816-979-3092



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Intentions for December 26-30, 2016

Mon.	NO MASS
Tues.	NO MASS
Wed.	NO MASS
Thurs.	8am †Greg Cullen
Fri.	8am †Lili Diederick

Saturday, December 31, 2016

4:00pm	Intentions of the Parish Family
	†Pat Simpson

Sunday, January 1, 2017

8:00am	†Gloria McLaughlin
10:30am	†Bob Westfall
12:30pm Spanish	†Ricardo Lopez Velasquez

From Death to New Life De la Muerte a la Nueva Vida

- † **Bob Westfall**, husband of Mary Westfall
- † **Bob McDonald**, husband of Judy McDonald
- † **Ricardo Lopez**, nephew of Gil Hernandez
- † **Chris Hirt**, son of George and Norma Hirt



Calendar/Pastor's Note

Sunday, December 25 - Domingo, 25 de Diciembre

Christmas

10:00am Mass in English

12:30pm Misa en Español

Monday, December 26 - Lunes, 26 de Diciembre

Parish Office Closed

4:00pm Uplift

Tuesday, December 27 - Martes, 27 de Diciembre

No Scheduled Events

Wednesday, December 28 - Miércoles, 28 de Diciembre

No Scheduled Events

Thursday, December 29 - Jueves, 29 de Diciembre

9:30am Quilters

Friday, December 30 - Viernes, 30 de Diciembre

No Scheduled Events

Saturday, December 31 - Sábado, 31 de Diciembre

3:00pm Confessions

Sunday, January 1 - Domingo, 1 de Enero

The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

New Year's Day

In the Gospel proclaimed on Christmas, Luke writes, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." As we celebrate how Jesus came to us to bring us the great joy of eternal life, let us also reflect on how we can bring great joy to those in our lives. Are we patient with those that we live with? Do our words express that patience and love? Are we kind to the strangers that we meet each day? Do we smile a greeting to them? Are we generous with our time, talent and treasure?

This year at St. Sabina we will have many opportunities for us all to share our time, talent and treasure with others, spreading the joy of the Christmas season to others throughout the year.

In January we will celebrate an Ecumenical Service on the 16th here at the parish. Members from many of the Belton and Raymore churches will come together to share about how the love of Christ compels us to work together as a community of faith, to bring Christ's joy to those we meet. I invite you to come to this service, sharing your time with our neighboring brothers and sisters in Christ.

In February one of our scholarship students from El Salvador, Heydi, will visit us, along with the delegation coordinator from El Salvador. All of our scholarship students are extremely grateful for the financial help that we have given thus far. They all live in poverty, and our donations to their university tuition are the only hope that they have to be able to climb out of poverty and to eventually work for justice in their country. I invite you to share some of your time to meet Heydi and Evelyn, and I also invite you to share your treasure to continue to help our scholarship students to be able to continue their education.



During this Christmas season I invite you to share your treasure by making a Year End Gift to our parish. Your gifts will go toward helping the parish fund the many ministries that we offer, as well as to be able to complete maintenance projects as needs come up. All your gifts are deeply appreciated.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and may we all experience the joy of Christ given to us on the first Christmas. May you all be blessed in the coming year.

In Christ,

Fr. Jeff Stephan



Parish Happenings and Information

Thank You from the Community Garden Committee

The Community Garden would like to thank these local businesses for their support during our start up season: Creekside Market, Home Depot, Johnson Farms, Kansas City Tree Service, Lowe's Home Improvement and St. Mary Magdalene Community Garden. We are grateful to the following parishioners for their help and donations: Emma Beaver, Sarah Diamond and the Homeschool group, Bridget Hernandez, Bob Hoyer, Lisa Janner, Sandy Katzer, Kris Larkey, Mary Mattingly, Jeannine Midgett, Gary Palmer, Helen Panebianco, the Pierce Family, Tracy Wheeler, Michelle Rose and Steve Wasleski. To join this ministry contact David Pierce 816-392-1110 or Michelle Rose 919-624-4407

Jesus' Infancy Narratives: Those in the Bible and Those from Other Gospels

Tuesday Evenings, – January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2017 ~ 7-9PM
repeated on Wednesday Mornings – January 11, 18, 25, and Feb 1, 2017 ~ 10 AM to Noon

Biagio will examine and explore the infancy stories of Jesus from the bible and from various other gospels not in the bible. Sign up sheets and more information are in the gathering space and on our website. Come, bring a friend and let us learn together the stories concerning Jesus' early life.



Ecumenical Prayer Service on January 16, 2017 at 7 PM at St. Sabina

January 18-25, 2017 is the annual observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme chosen for 2017 is Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us (2 Corinthians 5:14-20). Throughout 2017, as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, join Christians everywhere in praying "that they may all be one" joining our prayer with that of the Lord Jesus Christ. Plan to join us on Monday January 16 at 7 PM as we all pray for Christian Unity.



Christmas Poinsettia Thanks

Thanks to all who donated funds for our Christmas poinsettias. Poinsettias have been placed in our sanctuary in memory of:

The parents of Bob and Pat Heffernan, Gary L. Welborn, Kathryn Reynolds, Gene and Vernita Linenberger, Ben and Kay Schmidt, Joseph F. Falco, Sr., John C. Mayabb, L. James Wolfe, George Pierce, Bob Meiron, Kathleen Muder, Harold Brown, Theresa Brown, Francis Storm, Albert Storm, Marjorie Rhodes, Phil Moore, Pauline Gibson, Grace Ballenger, the Arnone Family, the Pusateri Family, Casey Pointer, the Gebauer Family, Michael Anthony Martinez, Fabian Villeral, Dorthy Wilbur, Lisa Ninci Denny, Nona Strassle, Walter Zmuda, Ivan Dull, Dennis Gornick, Donald Moorman, Elmer C. Parker, Anna Marinelle, Joe Wetler, Karen Taylor, Walt and

Ann Oliver, Pete and Catherine Pickman, Phillip Moore, Albert and Loritta Verhulst, Alfred Ross, Helen Irene Ralston, Brandon Lee Dennis, Jim and Bernardine Martin, Carol Martin, Rose Riek, Dennis Martin, Mary Czarneski, Olga Calice, Henrietta Mercier, Lola Barrios, Justin H. Chrane, Frank P. Fowler, Jr., Franklin P. Fowler, Ellen Fowler, Katherine Fox, Leonard Fox, Donald Lee Fenske, Pat Ann Fenske, The Gogue Family, Mr. and Mrs. Haldorsen, Victoria Davis, Vicente, John and Frank Reyes, Frank and Anita Ninete, Ralph and Ruth Richardson.

Green Team Tip of the Week

Most chain and big box stores recycle more than plastic bags. Look for in store displays, ask at customer service or check the website for recyclable items.

Parish Happenings and Information

Getting to Know Your Faith

This year, the St. Sabina Adult Faith Formation Team is offering a series called "Getting to Know Your Faith." Many Catholics see the need for growing in their faith by exploring the richness of the tradition and wisdom that has been handed down to us from those who have gone before us. Taking seriously Vatican II's call to form people into "full, conscious and active" participants in their faith lives, we are offering these sessions to provide another avenue of continued growth in our faith.

Every third Monday of the month, from 7-8:30 PM, we will explore a different topic together that will help us in getting to know our faith better. We will not meet in December and our January session will be on the fourth Monday. The next sessions will be:

Jan 23, 2017– Dialing Down the Heat (on Climate Change), co-sponsored by the St. Sabina Green Team
Jan 24, 2017, 10-11:30am—Dialing Down the Heat (repeated)

The sessions will be facilitated by Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate of St. Sabina Parish. To register, please contact Biagio either by phone at 816-979-3153 or by e-mail at biagio@stsabinaparish.org.

Parish Office Closed

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd. Fr. Jeff and the parish staff wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Blood Drive—January 8th

Blood is a precious commodity with a limited shelf life. Red blood cells must be used within 42 days. Platelets must be used within five days. Plasma can be frozen and stored for up to one year.

Please share your gift of life with local hospital patients who need it by donating at the next Community Blood Center blood drive.



The blood drive will be held in the St. Sabina Gym on Sunday, January 8, 8am-1pm. To make an appointment online, visit esavealifenow.org and use Sponsor Code: **saintsabina**. For additional details contact Michael Dailey at 816-853-8386.

happy birthday

Guadalupe Ayala	Brisneida Hinojos	Julianna Ortiz
Renee Biondo	Diane Hirt	Valerie Pina
Samuel Caesar	Leonar Huerta	Mason Putis
William Caesar	Lillian Jakobe	Ray Quinones
Daniel Calles	Derek Johnson	Marcela Rivera
Maria Carpio	Donna Kappenman	Riley Robinson
Daniel Cartagena	Paige Kinsey	Angel Rodriguez
Manny Castillo	Shari Lindsay	Efren Rodriguez
Yahir Chavez	Manuel Lopez	Elizabeth Romero
Joseph Chevalier	Paul Lynn	Maria Salazar
Anna Clark	Mary Madrigal	Ken Samson
Donna Dailey	Landon Marin	Sally Sargent
Dustan Dvergsten	Jordan Martin	Joshua Schumacher
Dylan Eppert	Axel Martinez	George Scott
Pat Falcon	Dora Martinez	Gonzalo Senda
Brisa Franco	Brennen McDowell	Maria Senda
Adriana Garcia	Mike McDowell	Jeff Shields
Leslie Garcia	Margaret McMurphy	Laurie Sigman
Emily Gracida	Juan Medina	Stanley Smith
McKenna Griggs	Karla Medina Vasquez	Mary Theobald
Sylvia Guerrero	Maribel Mendoza	Precious Torres
Jayden Guillermo	Robert Miller	Virginia Valenzuela
Eduardo Guzman	Matthew Mitsdarffer	Lisette Vargas
Bob Heffernan	Erika Molina	Amanda Votava
Axel Hernandez	Elias Morgan	Jerry Wilburn
Cynthia Hernandez	Jerry Nation	Theo Wilson
		Armando Yanez
		Chandler Yoksh Jr

Happy Anniversary

Richard and Doris Deschenes	64 Years!	12-27-1952
Joe and Susan Lager	51 Years!	12-29-1965
Eliceo and Maria Rocha	50 Years!	01-01-1967
James and Ann Morales	50 Years!	12-31-1966
John and Barbara Clark	49 Years!	12-30-1967
Jeffrey and Sandy Spiller	47 Years!	12-29-1969
Mike and Kris Larkey	29 Years!	12-27-1987
Anthony and Sandra Coyazo	28 Years!	12-26-1988
Arturo and Rosa Borja	27 Years!	12-29-1989
Carlos and Maria Arroyo	27 Years!	12-31-1989
Andres and Maria Orozco	25 Years!	12-27-1991
Jaime Perez and Doraida Aguirre	23 Years!	12-31-1993
Ramon and Isela Gomez	21 Years!	12-31-1995
Angel and Maria Rocha	19 Years!	12-26-1997
Alvaro Santillanes and Juana Talamantes	19 Years!	12-27-1997
Rogelio and Sara Mendiola	18 Years!	12-31-1998
Juan and Ampara Aguilera	16 Years!	12-29-2000
Aaron and Karla Coronado	13 Years!	12-27-2003
Tom and Susan Rolli	11 Years!	12-26-2005
Juan and Socorro Lopez	11 Years!	12-28-2005
Jose Damian and Maria Albor	7 Years!	12-26-2009



Pastoral Care

Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Dec 28 No Mass

Jan 4 10:30am

Jan 11 10:00am

Beautiful Savior

Rehabilitation of Raymore

Please remember the sick and homebound of our parish family in your prayers.

Grieving a Loss Through the Holidays

- Allow yourself to feel your emotions on that special day, don't feel that you need to just "get over it." You may want to write your feelings down in a journal.
- Take time with family and friends and share memories of your loved one that died.
- Light a candle in honor of your deceased loved one. Set a picture out and tell stories of his or her life.
- Don't avoid long-standing traditions. Children often find comfort in them. On the other hand, new traditions say you are still a family.
- Be open to good experiences that the holidays may bring.

Prayer Requests/Peticiones de Oración

Felipe Abarca	Butch Ford	Mona Neighbors
Belen Antillon	Fr. Paul Frank	Sherril Nevins
Marilyn Avalos	Emily Frezza	Johnnie Nicholes
Suzie Ashbaugh	Dick Garnier	Jane Nouryeh
Polleth Bautista	Cristian Garcia	Vicki Owen
Yesika Benavides	Nicholas Geridano	Leon Palomares
John Bidondo	Wendy Gomez	Gary Palmer
Allie Biondo	Lucy Harlan	Thelma Palmer
Joe Birkenbach	Devin Thomas Harley	Connie Read
Kaye Birkenbach	Laverne Harlow	Patricia Rellihan
David Bland	Connie Harper	Dawn Schaff
Yolanda Blanks	Jason Hart	Noah Stanley
Lucila Calix	Jeanette Hart	Leo Storm
Christine Carr	Cherie Hatfield	Jim Storm
Rick Castenada	Bob Heffernan	Jean Tate
Shirley Castor	Darlene Henderson	Ruth Tayler
Barbara Clark	Essie Humbird	Angel Thomas
Virginia Coday	Kelly Jordon	Nancy Torres
Steve Collier	Bertha Kramer	Senny Vigil
Joseph Coots	Kelsey Krum	Mary Westfall
Donna Dailey	Debbie Locke	Marie Wilburn
Paul DeMar	Jo Locke	Ben Winter
Doris Deschenes	Joe Malena	Brenda Winter
Richard Deschenes	Dick Martin	Merle Woolworth
Nolan Dickerson	Dodie Maurer	Truly Wright
Frances DiGeorge	Denise Mehlo	Emy Yeater
Patrick Dull	Alice Miller	Carmitia Yust
Terry Eppert	Elvia Mora	Pablo Zayas

Wellness Center

Silent Night

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature-trees, flowers, grass-grows in silence; see the stars, the moon, and the sun, how they move in silence." Mother Teresa

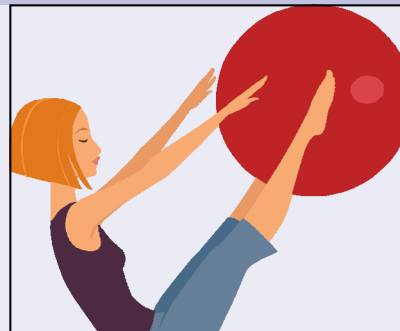
Take this moment to breathe in deeply, quiet your mind and count your blessings. Quiet gratitude is simply one of the best gifts we can give ourselves this holiday season.

HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY!



Wellness Center Class Schedule

Monday:	Intermediate Yoga 1-2pm Gentle Yoga 2-3pm Yoga 6-7pm
Tuesday:	Stretch & Strength 1-2pm Gentle Stretch & Strength 2-3pm
Wednesday:	Intermediate Yoga 1-2pm Gentle Yoga 2-3pm Strength & Restore 6-7pm
Thursday:	Stretch & Strength 1-2pm Gentle Stretch & Strength 2-3pm Circuit Training 6-7pm
Friday:	CLOSED FOR NEW YEAR'S



School of Religion/Youth Ministry

Volunteer Opportunities



Uplift Org. If you would like to bring meals to the homeless on the 4th or 5th Monday of any month, please contact Kirstie Roberts! This ministry

is open to all parishioners age 14 and older. Volunteers must report to the Uplift Warehouse by 5pm and will be finished around 9:30pm.

Uplift Cooks! Anyone who would like to help prepare a meal for the homeless is welcome to join our team on the 4th Monday of each month at 10am in the gym. We recommend that you bring a good cutting knife, vegetable peeler and can opener. Our next cooking date is January 23rd.



Harvesters! This local food bank provides food to needy families around the KC area. Volunteers are needed to help sort food donations and pack weekend food bags for kids in our community. We will be taking a group of 5 people on the third Thursday of each month. Our next date is January 19th, 6-8pm. If you would like to volunteer, call or email Kirstie in the Youth Office.

Community Meals Lord of Love Lutheran Church offers a free meal to the community each Wednesday. Every third Wednesday of the month St. Sabina volunteers help prepare, serve and clean up in an effort to work together with other Christians to carry out Christ's work. Our next volunteer date is January 18th. Contact Berenice Zayas in the parish office for more information or to sign up. Phone: 816-979-3150 or email: berenice@stsabinaparish.org.

PSR News

There will be no PSR classes on December 25th or January 1st. Classes will resume on January 8th. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

First Reconciliation Service

Our First Reconciliation Service will be January 24th at 7pm in the church. Please make every effort to attend this special service for the children of our sacramental preparation classes. When you arrive at the church, please check in with your student's teacher before entering the sanctuary.

Search Team Meetings

All Peer Ministers serving on the Search retreat team are required to attend the following meetings from 2-5pm in the Parish Hall. We will meet on January 15th, 22nd and 29th and February 4th.

Child Safety

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. **Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and**
2. **Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and**
3. **After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816.812.2500 or JeniferValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.**

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.

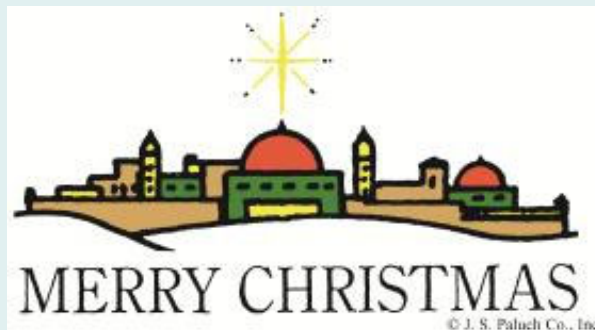
All volunteers with youth and children must attend one Protecting God's Children workshop, submit to a background check and sign the policy on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, (EIM). More info at <https://kcsj catholic.org/the-office-of-child-and-youth-protection/>

Junior High Youth!

Your next meetings will be January 4th and 18th at 7pm.

Junior High Sports Lock In!

On January 14th our 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend an overnight lock in at Legacy Park in Lee's Summit. We will leave St. Sabina parish at 8pm on the 14th and return at 6am on the 15th. Youth are welcome to bring a friend and everyone must have a permission slip, which are available on the parish website and will be handed out at the next youth meeting. The cost for this trip is \$25 per youth.



Stewardship

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1: 1-5

The Gospel speaks of the Christ child in a way that is not found in the other Gospels. Jesus is the Word incarnate. If we review what we know about Jesus, we might say He was from Nazareth or He was born in Bethlehem or He is descended from Abraham through David. However, John wants us to understand that Jesus has come to us directly from God as He is One with God. He is the Word. Toward the end of His Gospel John states of his Gospel: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name." Today is a day of life and light. It is truly a day on which we must proclaim "Glory to God in the highest." — See more at www.catholicsteward.com/blog/

December 18th Contributions

Envelopes/Sobres:	\$21,241.79
Plate/Canasta:	\$ 628.15
Maintenance-Upkeep:	\$ 892.00
Guadalupe:	\$ 1,082.89
Religious Retirement:	\$ 3,267.25

Catholic Key Offering - January 1

If you would like to receive a copy of the diocesan newspaper, (or renew your subscription) you may use your envelope in your packet to give an offering of \$25. The diocese requires that 35% of our parish families receive the Catholic Key. We currently have 1,475 families registered in the parish. This means that 516 families must receive a subscription each year, coming to a total subscription cost of \$12,900. If we don't have 516 families subscribe, the parish has to pick up the balance of the subscription costs for the year. Please assist the parish with this expense and subscribe to the Catholic Key. You can write your check out to St. Sabina and use the envelope in your December packet of envelopes. If you didn't received an envelope, please place your check for \$25 in an envelope marked, "Catholic Key." We are grateful to all families that pay for their subscription.

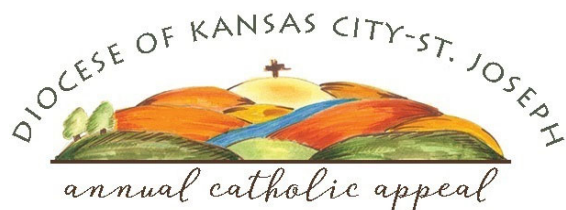
Online Giving

St. Sabina offers an online giving option for parishioners and visitors. This is an easy, safe and secure way to make contributions online. To set up a one-time or recurring contribution: go to our parish website at www.stsabinaaparish.org, click the "Online Giving" button in the top right section and fill out the online contribution form.

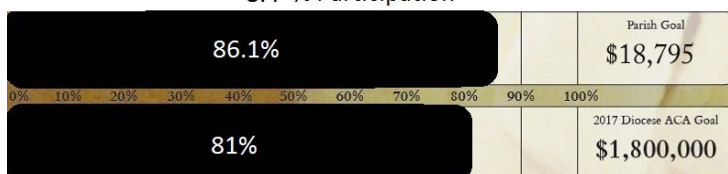
Leave a Legacy

Prepare or amend your living will or living trust, naming charities that have made a difference in your life.

"I give, devise, and bequeath to St. Sabina Parish, 700 Trevis Avenue, Belton, MO 64012 ___% of my estate or \$___ sum of money, or "described" property to be used for its general purposes, as part of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph."



8.4 % Participation



Please Consider a Year End Gift to St. Sabina Parish

Please remember our parish as you finish your giving for the end of the year. Your gifts to our parish help pay the utilities to keep it running, provide necessary supplies for our programs and ministries, allow us to create fellowship opportunities for our parish family, pay our staff who keep things running smoothly, and cover unexpected repair and maintenance expenses. The livelihood of our parish depends on the gifts of all members of our parish family. Please prayerfully consider making a special year end gift in addition to your regular tithing. Remember that in order to get a tax deduction for your 2016 gifts, they must be delivered or post-marked by December 31, 2016!



Reflection on the Readings

The celebration of the day of Christ's birth as a humble child in Bethlehem is so overwhelming that we are treated to a symphony of readings and reflections that span over three complete Masses, the Mass at midnight, the Mass at dawn and the Mass during the day. Each Eucharist unpacks a different aspect of this great and wonderful mystery beyond human understanding and expectation -- that of our God becoming fully and completely human, like us in all things but sin.

Responsorial Psalm 96 marvels at this wondrous coming and invites us to exclaim with great joy the refrain taken from Luke's gospel, "Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The readings burst out with joy over the coming of our God, as they invite us to delve deeper into the meaning and implications of God-with-us in the person of Jesus.

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah unpacks the meaning of God-with-us by means of the contrast between light and darkness. While originally intended for those who had suffered greatly under Assyrian oppression, this prophecy of God's saving acts on the people's behalf is now applied to the coming of Jesus. God's very presence among us in the person of Jesus drives out darkness and gloom, resulting in the bright light of joy and the freedom that comes from having been relieved of oppressive burdens and yokes.

The royal child from David's line was originally understood as the king's son who would one day be the ideal king, attuned to acting like God, ruling the people with wisdom, care, and justice, ultimately leading to enduring peace forever. Such hopes are now laid at the faith of the child born in a stable at Bethlehem, the eternal king born from the line of David who would bring about an eternal reign of peace and freedom for all people.

Responsorial Psalm 96 calls upon all to sing a new song to the Lord in thanksgiving for such wondrous deeds done by God on our behalf. The heavens, the earth, the seas, the plains, the trees, the forest -- all of creation is called upon to announce God's salvation and to exult before God who comes to save us, and to rule the world with justice and faithfulness for all time.

The second reading from the letter to Titus announces that in Jesus, the grace of God has appeared with saving power challenging us "to live temperately, justly, and devoutly." Jesus' presence

among us and the modeling of his life given for the sake of others should spur us on "to do what is good" and to put away selfishness and injustice.

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus in a humble stable away from home and extended family in a land occupied by foreign Roman oppressors speaks volumes concerning the struggles that Jesus and his family faced. Luke does not shy away from recounting that our God chooses to become human in the very midst of human injustice and oppression, amidst poverty and homelessness. Yet this child is aligned with "the house and family of David," the long awaited royal child who would bring justice to the earth and peace to all.

Paradoxes abound in this well-known account of Jesus' birth. A child from the royal house of David is born in a smelly, dirty stable with a feeding trough or manger for a bed. The ruling authorities are mentioned to situate that God chose to become human at this time, in this place and in this fashion. No matter who was in charge or how, God chose this time and this place to enter fully into union with us, in a manner far removed from human understanding of greatness or importance.

Lastly, with all the powers mentioned in all their glory, it is shepherds, the lowest, the shunned and the most unclean of all human beings that are visited by angels who announce the great news of a royal child born in a stable. The angels announce that God's peace and favor rest not with the mighty and the powerful but with the lowly, the despised and the powerless.

As you enter into the great joy of Christmas, spend some quiet time reflecting upon the paradoxes of this nativity account. How do the paradoxes challenge your way of thinking and acting? How attuned are you to God's ways of dealing with us? As you revel in your Christmas joy, commit yourself to bringing news of God's favor to the poor, the lowly, the despised, the immigrant, the refugee and the stranger. A merry Christmas to all. **Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate**

Readings



Sunday, December 25

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm: Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18

Sunday, January 1

1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm: Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)

2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

Bible Study

Catholics are mostly exposed to the Bible through the Sunday Lectionary Readings. In order to help us all enter into the Bible through the Sunday readings, we are offering study sessions that will provide an opportunity to read, to study background to the readings, and to reflect on how to apply the readings to our lives. **We will gather on January 8th and 22nd at 10:30am.** All are welcome. Bring a Bible and a friend. To register for these sessions, please call Biagio at 816-979-3153.



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Reflexión Sobre las Lecturas

La celebración del día del nacimiento de Cristo como un niño humilde en Belén es tan abrumadora que se nos regala una sinfonía de lecturas y reflexiones que abarcan tres Misas completas, la Misa a medianoche, la Misa al amanecer y la Misa durante el día. Cada Eucaristía desenvuelve un aspecto diferente de este grande y maravilloso misterio más allá de la comprensión y la expectativa humana - el de nuestro Dios llegando a ser completamente humano, como nosotros en todo aspecto menos el pecado.

El salmo responsorial 95 se maravilla de esta maravillosa venida y nos invita a exclamar con gran alegría el estribillo tomado del evangelio de Lucas: "Hoy nos ha nacido un Salvador: el Mesías, el Señor" (Lucas 2:11). Las lecturas estallan con alegría por la venida de nuestro Dios, ya que nos invitan a profundizarnos en el significado y las implicaciones de Dios-con-nosotros en la persona de Jesús.

La primera lectura del profeta Isaías explica el significado de Dios-con-nosotros mediante el contraste entre la luz y las tinieblas. Aunque originalmente estaba destinada a aquellos que habían sufrido mucho bajo la opresión de los asirios, esta profecía de los actos de salvación de Dios en nombre de la gente ahora se aplica a la venida de Jesús. La misma presencia de Dios entre nosotros en la persona de Jesús expulsa las tinieblas, resultando en la luz brillante de la alegría y la libertad que proviene de haber sido liberado de cargas opresivas y yugos pesados.

El niño real de la línea de David fue originalmente entendido como el hijo del rey que un día sería el rey ideal, en sintonía con actuar como Dios, gobernando al pueblo con sabiduría, cuidado y justicia, resultando finalmente a una paz duradera para siempre. Esas esperanzas ahora están depositadas en la fe del niño nacido en un establo en Belén, el eterno rey nacido de la línea de David que traería un reino eterno de paz y libertad para todos los pueblos.

El Salmo responsorial 95 invita a todos a cantar una canción nueva al Señor en acción de gracias por tal acción maravillosa hecha por Dios en nuestro favor. Los cielos, la tierra, los mares, las llanuras, los árboles, el bosque, toda la creación está llamada a anunciar la salvación de Dios y a regocijarse ante Dios que viene a salvarnos y a gobernar el mundo con justicia y fidelidad para siempre.

La segunda lectura de la carta a Tito anuncia que en Jesús, la gracia de Dios ha aparecido con un poder salvador que nos desafía a "vivir de una manera sobria, justa y fiel a Dios". La presencia de Jesús entre nosotros y la modelación de su vida dada por el bien de los demás debe estimularnos a "practicar el bien" y a eliminar el egoísmo y la injusticia.

El relato de Lucas sobre el nacimiento de Jesús en un establo humilde fuera de casa y de la familia extendida en una tierra ocupada por opresores romanos extranjeros habla mucho sobre las luchas que Jesús y su familia enfrentaron. Lucas no se niega a contar que nuestro Dios elige ser humano en medio de la injusticia y la opresión humana, en medio de la pobreza y la falta de vivienda. Sin embargo, este niño está alineado con "la casa y la familia de David", el niño real esperado desde hace mucho tiempo que traería la justicia a la tierra y la paz a todos.

Las paradojas abundan en este conocido relato del nacimiento de Jesús. Un niño de la casa real de David nace en un establo apestoso y sucio con un comedero o un pesebre para una cama. Se menciona a las autoridades gobernantes para situar que Dios eligió ser humano en este momento, en este lugar y de esta manera. No importa quién estaba a cargo o cómo, Dios escogió esta vez y este lugar para entrar plenamente en unión con nosotros, de una manera muy alejada de la comprensión humana de la grandeza o la importancia. Por último, con todos los poderes mencionados en toda su gloria, son los pastores, los más humildes, los humillados y los más inmundos de todos los seres humanos que son visitados por los ángeles que anuncian la gran noticia de un niño real nacido en un establo. Los ángeles anuncian que la paz y el favor de Dios no están con los poderosos, sino con los humildes, los despreciados y los impotentes.

Al entrar en la gran alegría de la Navidad, pase un rato tranquilo reflexionando sobre las paradojas de este relato natividad. ¿Cómo las paradojas desafían su manera de pensar y de actuar? ¿Qué tan en sintonía está con las maneras de Dios de tratarnos? Mientras disfruta de su alegría navideña, comprométase a traer noticias del favor de Dios a los pobres, humildes, despreciados, inmigrantes, refugiados y forasteros. Feliz Navidad a todos.

Biagio Mazza, Asociado Pastoral

Lecturas



Lecturas del Domingo, 25 de Diciembre

Primera Lectura: Isaías 52:7-10

Salmo: Salmo 97:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6

Segunda Lectura: Hebreos 1:1-6

Evangelio: Juan 1:1-18

Lecturas del Domingo, 1 de Enero

Primera Lectura: Números 6:22-27

Salmo: Salmo 66:2-3, 5, 6, 8

Segunda Lectura: Gálatas 4:4-7

Evangelio: Lucas 2:16-21

Ministerio Juvenil

Oportunidades para Voluntarios

Uplift Org. Si le gustaría traer comidas a las personas sin hogar en el 4º o 5º Lunes de cada mes, por favor, póngase en contacto con Kirstie Roberts! Este ministerio está abierto a todos los feligreses mayores de 14 años. Los voluntarios deben reportarse a la bodega de Uplift a las 5pm y se terminan a las 9:30pm.

Cocineros de Uplift! Cualquier persona que le gustaría ayudar a preparar una comida para las personas sin hogar está bienvenido a unirse a nuestro equipo en el 4º Lunes de cada mes a las 10am en el gimnasio. Le recomendamos que traiga un cuchillo y pelador de verduras buenos. El próximo día de cocinar es el 23 de enero.

Harvesters! Este banco de alimentos local proporciona alimentos a las familias necesitadas de todo el área de KC. Se necesitan voluntarios para ayudar a organizar las donaciones de alimentos y para preparar bolsas de comida para fines de semana para niños en nuestra comunidad. Vamos a llevar un grupo de 5 personas en el tercer Jueves de cada mes. Nuestra próxima fecha es el 19 de enero de 6-8 pm. Si desea ser voluntario, llame a o mande un correo electrónico a Kirstie en la Oficina de la Juventud.

Comidas Comunitarias La Iglesia Luterana Lord of Love ofrece una comida gratis a la comunidad cada miércoles a la cual usted está invitado. Cada tercer miércoles del mes voluntarios de Sta. Sabina ayudan a preparar, servir y limpiar en un esfuerzo de trabajar junto con otros cristianos para llevar a cabo la obra de Cristo. Nuestra próxima fecha como voluntarios es el 18 de enero. Contacte a Berenice Zayas en la oficina parroquial para más información. 816-979-3150

Noche de Deportes para los Jóvenes de Junior High

El 14 de enero, nuestros jóvenes del 7º y 8º grado están invitados a asistir a una noche de deportes en el Legacy Park en Lee's Summit. Saldremos de la parroquia de St. Sabina a las 8pm el día 14 y regresaremos a las 6am el día 15. Los jóvenes son bienvenidos a traer un amigo pero todos los que participan deben tener un permiso los cuales están disponibles en el sitio web de la parroquia y se entregarán en la próxima reunión. El costo de este viaje es de \$25 por cada joven.

Reuniones del Equipos Search

Todos los ministros jóvenes que sirven en el equipo del retiro Search deben asistir a las siguientes reuniones de las 2 a 5pm en el salón parroquial. Nos reuniremos los días 15, 22 y 29 de enero y 4 de febrero.

Seguridad Infantil

La Diócesis de Kansas City-St. Joseph esta comprometida a luchar contra el abuso sexual en la Iglesia. Si usted es victima de abuso sexual, o si usted observa o sospecha de abuso sexual, por favor:

- 1) Llame a línea directa de Abuso Infantil en Missouri al 1.800.392.3738 (si la victima tiene menos de 18 años de edad), y
- 2) Póngase en contacto con su departamento de policía local o llame al 911, y
- 3) Después de informarle a las autoridades de la orden civil y de leyes, reporte el abuso sexual del menor o del adulto vulnerable al Defensor del Pueblo Diocesano, Jenifer Valenti, al 816.812.2500 o a su correo electrónico, jennifervalenti@att.net, si el abuso implica a un sacerdote, diacono, empleado o voluntario de la Diócesis de Kansas City-St. Joseph

La Diócesis tiene un sincero compromiso con los recursos del cuidado y la curación para las victimas de abuso sexual y a sus familias. Por favor póngase en contacto con la Defensora de Victimias, Kathleen Chastain al 816.392.0011 o chastain@diocesekcsj.org para mas información.

Todas las personas que son voluntarios con los jóvenes o niños de nuestra parroquia deben atender a un taller llamado Protegiendo a los Niños de Dios, también necesitaran someterse a una verificación de antecedentes y deberán firmar la póliza sobre Éticas e Integridad en el Ministerio (EIM). Más información en <https://kcsj catholic.org/the-office-of-child-and-youth-protection/>

Noticias de la Escuela de Religión

No habrá clases de catecismo el 25 de diciembre, ni el 1 de enero. Las clases se reanudarán el 8 de enero. ¡¡Feliz navidad y próspero año nuevo!!

Servicio de la Primera Reconciliación

Nuestro Servicio de la Primera Reconciliación será el 24 de enero a las 7pm en la iglesia. Por favor haga todo lo posible para asistir a este servicio especial para los niños de nuestras clases de preparación sacramental. Cuando llegue a la iglesia, por favor pase a ver a su maestro antes de entrar en el santuario.

¡Jóvenes de Junior High! Sus próximas reuniones serán los días 4 y 18 de enero a las 7pm.

Platicas Pre-Bautismales-14 de Enero

Normalmente cada segundo Sábado del mes de las 10 am a 1 pm (Sólo para Niños de 0-6 años) Salón de juntas. Sótano de la Parroquia. Para niños mayores de 7 años requerirán una formación especial. Infórmese PRÓXIMOS BAUTISMOS: llamar a Kris al 816-979-3151 Favor de llenar su aplicación para asistir a las platicas con anterioridad. **No se ofrece cuidado de niños.**



Corresponsabilidad/Nota del Pastor

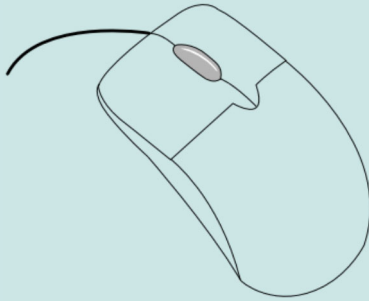
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Prepare o modifique su testamento vivo, nombrando organizaciones benéficas que han marcado una diferencia en su vida:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to St. Sabina Parish, 700 Trevis Avenue, Belton, MO 64012 ___% of my estate or \$___ sum of money, or "described" property to be used for its general purposes, as part of the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City/St. Joseph."

Donaciones por Internet

Sta. Sabina ofrece una opción de donar en línea para los feligreses y visitantes. Esta es una manera fácil, y segura de contribuir por internet. Para establecer una contribución única o recurrente: visite nuestro sitio web de la parroquia en www.stsabina-parish.org, haga clic en el botón "Online Giving" en la parte superior derecha y llene el formulario de contribución en línea.



Por Favor Considere Dar un Regalo de Fin de Año a Nuestra Parroquia

Por favor, recuerde nuestra parroquia mientras termina sus donaciones del fin de año. Sus regalos a nuestra parroquia ayudan a pagar las utilidades para mantenerla funcionando, proveer los suministros necesarios para nuestros programas y ministerios, permitirnos crear oportunidades de compañerismo para nuestra familia parroquial, pagar a nuestro personal que mantiene las cosas funcionando sin problemas y cubrir gastos inesperados de reparación y mantenimiento. El sustento de nuestra parroquia depende de la contribuciones de todos los miembros de nuestra familia parroquial. Por favor considere en oración hacer un regalo especial de fin de año. ¡Recuerde que para obtener una deducción de impuestos para sus donaciones del 2016, deben ser entregados antes del 31 de diciembre de 2016!

¡Gracias a Rubén y Norma Campos por su generosa donación de tamales para nuestras Posadas!



Nota del Pastor

En el Evangelio proclamado en la Navidad, Lucas escribe: "No teman. Les traigo una buena noticia, que causará gran alegría a todo el pueblo". Al celebrar cómo Jesús vino a nosotros para traernos el gran gozo de la vida eterna, reflexionemos también sobre cómo podemos traer gran alegría a aquellos en nuestras vidas. ¿Somos pacientes con los con quien vivimos? ¿Nuestras palabras expresan esa paciencia y amor? ¿Somos amables con los extraños que conocemos cada día? ¿Les sonreímos un saludo? ¿Somos generosos con nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro?

Este año en Sta. Sabina tendremos muchas oportunidades para compartir nuestro tiempo, talento y tesoro con los demás, difundiendo la alegría de la temporada de Navidad a los demás durante todo el año.

En enero celebraremos un Servicio Ecuménico el día 16 en la parroquia. Miembros de muchas de las iglesias de Belton y Raymore se reunirán para compartir acerca de cómo el amor de Cristo nos obliga a trabajar juntos como una comunidad de fe, para llevar la alegría de Cristo a aquellos a quienes nos encontramos. Los invito a venir a este servicio, compartiendo su tiempo con nuestros hermanos y hermanas vecinos en Cristo.

En febrero, uno de nuestros becarios de El Salvador, Heydi, nos visitará, junto con el coordinador de delegaciones de El Salvador. Todos nuestros estudiantes de becas están muy agradecidos por la ayuda financiera que hemos dado hasta ahora. Todos ellos viven en la pobreza y nuestras donaciones a la enseñanza universitaria son la única esperanza de que puedan salir de la pobreza y trabajar eventualmente por la justicia en su país. Los invito a compartir parte de su tiempo para conocer a Heydi y Evelyn, y también les invito a compartir su tesoro para seguir ayudando a nuestros becarios para poder continuar su educación.

Durante esta temporada de Navidad los invito a compartir su tesoro haciendo un regalo de fin de año a nuestra parroquia. Sus regalos se destinarán a ayudar a la parroquia a financiar los muchos ministerios que ofrecemos, así como a ser capaces de completar los proyectos de mantenimiento a medida que surjan las necesidades. Todos sus regalos son profundamente apreciados.

Que tengan una maravillosa Navidad y que todos podamos experimentar la alegría de Cristo que nos fue dada en la primera Navidad. Que todos ustedes sean bendecidos en el próximo año.

En Cristo,

P. Jeff Stephan

Parroquia Católica de Santa Sabina

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Horarios de la Oficina: 9:00am-5:00pm, Lunes - Jueves y 9:00am-1:00pm, Viernes



Un agradecimiento Especial a todo el grupo de trabajo que hizo posible la Celebración en Honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe, a Todos: ¡Muchísimas Gracias, Excelente Trabajo!

Horarios de Misa

Sábado: 4:00pm en Ingles

Domingo: 8:00am y 10:30am en Ingles,
12:30pm en Español

Confesiones: Sábados, 3:00-3:30pm

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Natividad del Señor

25 de Diciembre del 2016