

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



Congratulations to Wesson and Elaine, children of Brian and
Andrea, who were baptized on December 9!

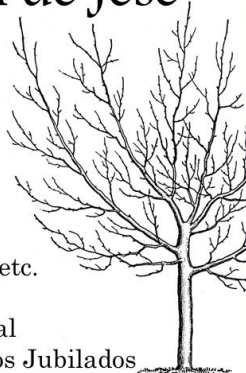
Jesse Tree Collections Colectas del Árbol de Jesé

Dec 2/3 – Toys
Juguetes

Dec 9/10 – Canned Food
Alimentos Enlatados

Dec 16/17 – Gloves, hats, socks, etc.
Guantes, gorros, calcetines, etc.

Dec 23/24 – Religious Retirement Appeal
Apelación para los Religiosos Jubilados



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.**

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

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

Wendy Mora Cedillo

816-979-3090

Jeannine Midgett

816-979-3093

Patricia Moreno

816-979-3092



Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK

Intentions for December 18-22, 2017

Mon.	8am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Tues.	6pm	†Laverne Bremer
Wed.	10am	†Joe Birkenbach (Foxwood Springs)
Thurs.	8am	†Felix Suwito
Fri.	8am	†Nick Henning

Saturday, December 23, 2017

4:00pm	†Lorraine Peterson
	†Patrick Simpson

Sunday, December 24, 2017

10:00am	Intentions of the Parish Family
12:30pm Spanish	†Aaron Velez
4:00pm	†Charles Bybee Jr
	†Charles Bybee Sr

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

†Laverne Bremer, uncle of Tracy Wheeler



Calendar/Parish Happenings

Sunday, December 17 - Domingo, 17 de Diciembre

- 10:30am Bible Study
- 11:00am Ensayo del Coro Hispano
- 1:30pm Las Posadas

Monday, December 18 - Lunes, 18 de Diciembre

- 5:30pm Marian Prayer Group
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, December 19 - Martes, 19 de Diciembre

- 7:00am HS Youth Prayer Breakfast
- 7:00pm ESL/Inglés Como Segunda Lengua
- 7:00pm Living Stones

Wednesday, December 20 - Miércoles, 20 de Diciembre

- 9:00am Legion of Mary
- 10:00am Mass at Foxwood Springs
- 6:30pm Choir Practice (4:00 and 10:30 groups)
- 7:00pm Knights Christmas Party

Thursday, December 21 - Jueves, 21 de Diciembre

- 9:30am Quilters
- 7:00pm RCIA/RICA
- 8:00pm Choir Practice (8:00 group)

Friday, December 22 - Viernes, 22 de Diciembre

- 9:00am Pew Cleaning

Saturday, December 23 - Sábado, 23 de Diciembre

- 3:00pm Confessions

Sunday, December 24 - Domingo, 24 de Diciembre

- Christmas Eve
- 10:00am Sunday Mass
- 12:30pm Misa Navideña
- 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Falls on Sunday this year so it affects our Sunday and Christmas Mass schedule. Please note the difference in Sunday morning Mass times:

Mass times for the 4th Sunday of Advent, Dec 24

4:00 PM Saturday, Dec 23

10:00 AM Sunday, Dec 24--NO 8:00 AM OR 10:30 AM MASS

Christmas Mass times

12:30 PM Sunday, Dec 24 (Spanish)

4:00 PM Sunday, Dec 24

10:00 AM Monday, Dec 25

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Each weekend of Advent, members of the parish are invited to help light the candles of the Advent Wreath during the entrance procession of each Mass. If you would like to light a candle, please sign up for a date and Mass time on the sign-up sheet in the gathering space. Please plan to arrive 15 minutes before the Mass for which you have signed up. You will process in with Father and the servers, light the candle(s) for that week and then be seated in your pew. If children would like to help light a candle, we ask that a parent please assist them. Contact Susan Ratigan with questions or to sign up. susan@stsabinaparish.org.



Help needed for Christmas Preparations:

Join us to help decorate the church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 20 at 9:00 AM. This is when we place the nativity set, Christmas banners, and other decorations. Many hands make the job go quickly! Please sign up on the sheet in the gathering space.

Baptism Congratulations

Aaron Michael Lopez, son of Jade Lopez and Alexander Bandelier-Houghton

Elle Juliana Anderson, daughter of David and Melissa Anderson

Congratulations to **Beth Heide and Rhett Heide**, who were baptized on Saturday, December 16th!



Parish Happenings

Parents Lounge

The Parents Lounge would like to welcome you and hope you can join us on Sundays at 9am, during the PSR hour in the education wing. It is a great opportunity to meet other parents and families of the parish. This ministry is just a couple years old but is slowly growing with new members, and we look forward to seeing where God leads us as a group this year.

Parents Lounge at St. Sabina is where we just gather together and talk. In past years we have had planned topics for discussion on occasion, but typically it is just informal discussion on anything from parenting subjects, kids' school events, vacation destinations, family events, local activities, etc. There is no long term commitment. Parents Lounge is a come as you want type meeting. Different events we have been involved in are: Trunk or Treat, Stuff the Turkey, family oriented Stations of the Cross during Lent, and summer activities such as bowling. Don't have any kids in PSR yet?? That's okay! Younger children are welcome to come. We have some toys and coloring books for the children to play together. Feel free to contact Anita Frey with questions. 816-804-3127 or afreyhome@sbcglobal.net

Over 55

New Theatre Restaurant

The next show we will be seeing at the New Theatre Restaurant is *Funny Money* on Tuesday, February 6th at 6:00pm. Tickets are \$49 each. If you would like to go, please contact Bridget Hernandez at 816-979-3159 with the number of tickets you will need by Friday, December 29th.

Lectionary Year B and The Gospel of Mark

Lectionary Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark, the first gospel to be written somewhere between 67-73 CE. Mark is the first evangelist to give Jesus a human face along with a mission to proclaim the realm of God. For Mark, Jesus is God's suffering servant experiencing misunderstanding, rejection, persecution, suffering and even death as an

integral part of being faithful to proclaiming and living out all that God's realm entails.

These four two hour sessions will explore the situation and context of the community that produced the gospel, along with their questions, concerns and needs. We will attempt to understand the mind and heart of the Marcan community by carefully reading and unpacking the gospel, focusing on its key themes and message for the community that produced it and for us today.

Bring an open, inquiring mind, a bible, and anyone you think would benefit from our communal exploration of Mark's gospel. The sessions will be facilitated by Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate, St. Sabina Parish, Belton, MO. The four sessions will be held on Wednesday Evenings 7-9 PM beginning January 10 and ending on January 31, 2018. The sessions will be repeated on Thursday Mornings, 10 AM-Noon, beginning January 11 and ending on February 1, 2018. To register, simply e-mail Biagio at biagio@stsabinaparish.org and state your time frame preference.

Blood Drive—January 7

Community Blood Center is the primary supplier of blood for local hospitals and has been serving Missouri and Kansas hospitals for more than 50 years. Community Blood Center needs to collect 580 pints of blood every day and over 140,000 pints annually to meet the needs of our local hospitals. An individual within the area that Community Blood Center serves needs a blood transfusion every 4 minutes.

Please share your gift of life with local hospital patients who need it by donating at the next blood drive on Sunday, January 7 from 8am-1pm in the gym. To make an appointment online, visit esavealifenow.org and use **sponsor code: saintsabina**. For more details contact Michael Dailey at 816.853.8386 or mgdailey123@yahoo.com.

Please take note:

We want to make all parishioners aware that the Belton Code of Ordinances states that nowhere within the city are people allowed to "beg" or ask for money. If someone asks you for money in our parking lot when you come to attend Mass, please direct them to any staff member at that Mass, or to the parish office during office hours, rather than giving them money. A staff member is present after every Mass for any questions or concerns. You can find us in the Gathering Space. We will direct them to the appropriate resources.



Like us on
Facebook



Information

Save Our Seminarians (SOS) Benefit Dinner

Save the date of Friday, January 26th for the SOS Benefit Dinner, an annual dinner and marketplace to benefit the seminarians of Conception Seminary College, the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS. The event will be held at Union Station in Kansas City beginning at 5:30pm. For more information or to donate a gift for the marketplace, please contact Martha Hodes at 913-207-9893 or mmmhsos512@gmail.com.

Missouri Adoption Law is Changing!

On January 1st, 2018, adult adoptees (ages 18 and older) will be granted access to their original birth certificate. Birth parents have the right to protect their confidentiality under the new law, but they must act before January 1st. For more information, contact the Missouri Bureau of Vital Records by phone at (573) 751-6387 OR by email at vitalrecordsinfo@health.mo.gov. Visit the Bureau's website at www.health.mo.gov/data/vitalrecords/adopteerightsact.php for more detailed information about the new law.

"COPING WITH LIFE ALONE" - Peer-To-Peer Grief Support

"COPING WITH LIFE ALONE®" is a Beginning Experience® grief support program that meets each week for 7 weeks. The program helps those who have lost a love relationship due to death, divorce or separation, move through the experience of grief and loss into a future with renewed hope.

UPCOMING PROGRAM DATES AND LOCATION:

Kansas City, MO – Sundays, January 14 through February 25, at St John Francis Regis Church, 8941 James A. Reed Road, KCMO. Contact Donna at (816-305-3760), for information and registration. Sessions will be from 1:30-3:30pm.



MARRIED COUPLES – WANT TO GIVE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING?

Register for the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend – it's the best gift you'll ever give to each other and your marriage! Make your reservation now! The next Weekend in Kansas City is **April 20-22, 2018**

For more information or to apply, please visit our website:

www.wmme4youandme.org
or call Tony & Barb Zimmerman, 816-741-4066
or email tonybarbz@prodigy.net

happy birthday

Azucena Abonza	Samantha Hennessey	Edgar Nunez
Blake Biondo	Adan Hernandez	Arminda Perez
Brantley Bossler	Mannie Herrera	Gisela Perez
Dani Castillo	Claudia Hinojos	Gricelda Ramirez
Shirley Chevalier	Neida Hinojos	Edil Ramos
Danny Chevalier	Cassandra Hoffman	Josephine Rangel
Elizabeth Chevalier	Kristina Jacobs	Barb Rewald
Thomas Coovert	Vanessa Jaimes	Benito Rodriguez
Aaron Coronado	Ana Jimenez	David Rogers
Maria Cortes	Virgil Kempf	Chris Romero
Jesus De los Santos	Kersten Laughlin	Victoria Sanchez
Salvador Duarte Perez	Michael Logan	Jesus Santillanes
Mark Emry	Bridget Lowther	George Scott
Alexandra Estrella	Alexandra Macan	Shelby Shatford
James Evans	Lency Marin	Maria Solares
Jose Flores	Litzy Martinez	Laura Solomon
William Forrest	Rachel Martinez	Mollie Stoltz
Robert Garcia	Alexander Mata	Mark Storm
Johnny Gastello	Santillanes	Fernando Suarez
Jesus Gonzalez	Eric Mendoza	Francisco Torres
Nadya Gonzalez	Raymond Miederhoff	Cooper Tracy
Blanca Grado	Alfonso Monroy	Margaret Vargo
Justin Guerra	Tom Moran	Victor Vieyra
Alexa Gutierrez	Teresa Mulich	Maribel Villa
Blake Hamilton	Jasmine Munoz	Katherine Walker
Dwayne Hammack	Marcos Navarrete	Judith Wantz
Steven Hammack	Mark Nichols	Gissel Zarco
Don Hemmen	Araceli Noriega	Javier Zavala

Happy Anniversary

Terry and Mary Eppert	49 Years!	12/21/1968
Edward and Gwen McGuire	28 Years!	12/22/1989
Alfredo and Elvia Torres	27 Years!	12/23/1990
Angel and Arleen Martinez	25 Years!	12/19/1992
Julio and Alberta Jaimes	23 Years!	12/19/1994
Luis Hinojos and Maria Varela	21 Years!	12/21/1996
Jason and Stephanie Jones	22 Years!	12/21/1996
Jose Castillo and Reyna Razo	18 Years!	12/23/1999
Alberto and Maria Mancha	16 Years!	12/23/2001
Jorge and Maria Damian	15 Years!	12/21/2002
Juan Medina and Elisabeth Quiroz	7 Years!	12/18/2010
Ernesto Garcia and Yesenia Torres	3 Years!	12/20/2014



Stewardship

"They asked him, 'Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.'"

John 1: 25-27

St. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus as the Messiah. John the Baptist, through personal witness, raised a great sense of expectancy and excitement, the kind of expectancy and excitement that we associate with this season of Advent. John tries to awaken in people a consciousness of sin, the importance of conversion and change, and the need to become more holy in God's eyes. Those are the same goals we should have during this Advent season. The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others. — See more at www.catholicsteward.com/blog/

Contributions for December 10

Envelopes/Sobres:	\$9,646.80
Plate/Canasta:	\$ 726.45
Maintenance-Upkeep:	\$ 727.50
Immaculate Conception 12/8:	\$ 762.77

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.stsabina.org, click the "Online Giving" button in the top right section and fill out the online contribution form.

Community Garden Update

The Community Garden donated 1368 lbs of produce in 2017. Thanks to the following people and businesses that donated goods or services; Dan Chevalier and Chevalier Construction, John Ferguson and Belton HS FFA, Don & Marilyn Grieb, Al Gebauer, Sandy Katzer, Dr. Teresa Kelly, David Pierce, Michelle Rose, Pat Rose, Paulette Samson and Glen & Mary Schmidt. Please consider joining us next year to continue feeding the hungry.

Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

Help care for elders. "Thanks to support from the Retirement Fund for Religious, we are now in a much better position to care for our elders," writes a religious sister. Your donation helps her religious community and hundreds of others provide for aging members and plan for long-term needs. Please give to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection.



Is St. Sabina on Your Christmas Gift List?

We are officially in Christmas shopping season. Please remember our parish as you prepare your Christmas gifts and 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 Christmas and year end gift in addition to your regular tithing. Remember that in order to get a tax deduction for your 2017 gifts, they must be delivered or post-marked by December 31, 2017!

Green Team Tip of the Week

Switching from incandescent to LED light bulbs can reduce lighting cost up to 85%. Coupons are available from KCP&L. LED bulbs are the most environmentally friendly bulbs to manufacture too.



Pastoral Care

Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Dec 20 10:00am Foxwood Springs
Dec 27 NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
Jan 3 10:30am Beautiful Savior

The Holiday Season can be difficult when you are grieving the loss of a loved one.

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.
- Some days, putting one foot in front of the other is all you can do. But it's enough!
- Be open to good experiences that the holidays may bring.

Prayer Requests/Peticiones de Oración

Bill Aldridge	Laverne Harlow	Doris Shields
Dick Armstrong	Bonnie Haskins	Jo Ann Shrout
Marilyn Avalos	Cherie Hatfield	Lois Simpson
Joy Banks-Wilson	Bob Heffernan	Ashley Smith
Louise Battaglia	Beth Heide	Shelline Smoot
Nikki Barrett	Bart Henke	Charles Stinger II
Pauline Bellm	Rhonda Henke	Marie Stinger
Beverly Bell	Pam Kelleher	Juanita Stockton
John Bidondo	Donna Kozar	Jim Storm
Ryann Burrows	John Lally	Leo Storm
Ramon Caratachea	Susan Lewis	Marge Storm
Anna Clark	Beverly Little	Mary Jane Storm
Helen Cook	Bill Locke	Jean Tate
Joseph Coots	Debbie Locke	Ruth Tayler
Bob Cummings	Jo Locke	Angel Thomas
Paul DeMar	Israel Luna	Bruce Thompson
Nolan Dickerson	Bonita Mackedanz	Priscilla Tristani
Steven DiGeorge	Leonard Meiron	Rhonda VanDyne
Frances DiGeorge	Harry Muench	William VanDyne
Argentina Meza Dubon	Joan Muench	Harvey Vice
Carol Eckford	Bella Nouryeh	Sunny Vigil
Brian Effertz	Jane Nouryeh	Donna West
Terry Eppert	Thelma Palmer	Mary Westfall
Joan Feedback	Dee Raya	Marie Wilburn
Larry Foster	Patricia Rellihan	Jeannette Woolworth
Emily Frezza	Clarence Reynolds	Merle Woolworth
Dick Garnier	Helen Rush	Carmitia Yust
June Glunt	Yvonne Salmon	Pablo Zayas
Karen Grantham		

Wellness Center

Did you know physical activity helps reduce stress?

It's important for children and adults of all ages to have daily activity especially during this busy Christmas season. Being active as a family benefits everyone. Adults need 2½ hours a week of physical activity, and children need 60 minutes a day. Follow these tips to add more activity to your family's busy schedule.

1. Set specific activity times

Determine time slots throughout the week when the whole family is available. Try doing something active after dinner or begin the weekend with a Saturday morning walk.

2. Plan ahead and track your progress

Write your activity plans on a family calendar. Let the kids help in planning the activities. Allow them to check it off after completing each activity.

3. Use what is available

Plan activities that require little or no equipment or facilities. Examples include walking, jogging, jumping rope, playing tag, and dancing.

4. Turn off the TV

Set a rule that no one can spend longer than 2 hours per day playing video games, watching TV, and using the computer (except for school work). Instead of a TV show, play an active family game, dance to favorite music, or go for a walk.

5. Start small

Begin by introducing one new family activity and add more when you feel everyone is ready. Take the dog for a longer walk, play another ball game, or organize a neighborhood caroling group...
FaLaLaLaLa!



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 Monday, December 25th.**

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 December 21st, 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 December 20th.** Contact Berenice Zayas for more information or to sign up at 816-979-3150 or berenice@stsabinaparish.org.

Youth News

Tuesday Morning Donuts! Every Tuesday that Belton High School is in session, Kirstie will have donuts and a little prayer for High School youth heading to school. The Youth Office doors will open at 7am for kids to stop in on their way to school.

The Next Confirmation Sponsor Night will be on January 17th, 7-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. All Confirmation Candidates (youth) and their adult Sponsor are expected to attend these meetings. If the Sponsor is unable to attend a meeting with the youth, the youth should still attend. If you are having difficulty finding a Sponsor, please contact Kirstie Roberts in the Youth Office and she will be happy to find someone for you.

PSR News

Donut Sunday! The PSR Second Grade class will be hosting Donuts in the gathering space after the 8am & 10:30am Masses on Jan 7. Please stop by their table to say hello!

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/>



Last Sunday, our PSR teachers enjoyed a teachers' brunch together. A special thank you to Claudia Rodriguez, Caroline Squires, Celia Squires, Corey Morgan, Brenda Stoddard, Sarah Wheeler, Sonja Bornheimer, and—not pictured—Luisa Arreola, Johana Rosas, Paulina Basurto, Flor Trejo, Rachel Martinez, Elvia Mora, and Eliezer Trejo, who share so much of their time and talents helping our children grow in their faith!

Reflection on the Readings

Today is *Gaudete or Rejoice Sunday* coming from the first word of the entrance prayer, as well as the key theme of the readings. This third Sunday of Advent is “rose candle” Sunday on the Advent Wreath. When Advent was a season of fast and abstinence modeled on Lent, this Sunday marked a break in the season, indicating that Christmas was near and that our Advent fast and penance would soon be over.

The readings present two key people who play significant roles in the Advent season intended as a time of joyful anticipation and preparation for the coming of the Lord. Both Mary and John the Baptist, each in their own way, make possible the presence of Christ among us. Mary willingly agrees to cooperate with God’s plans for her to be the mother of the Lord while John assumes the role of forerunner for the adult Jesus, preparing the way of the Lord.

The responsorial psalm does not come from the book of Psalms but is one of those rare lectionary instances when it comes from another book, Luke’s gospel. It is known as Mary’s “Magnificat,” a hymn of joy, praise and thanksgiving to God for all the marvels that God had done for the people, the lowly ones who trust and rely on God’s love and goodness.

Mary proclaims that God turns the world’s values on their head by filling “the hungry with good things,” while “the rich” are “sent away empty.” We are invited to join Mary in her hymn by responding “My soul rejoices in my God.” Mary becomes the ideal Advent model in that she was open to being the vessel through whom God would be delivered to the world and become truly

present in it. *Like Mary, our Advent focus is to prepare ourselves so that, through us, God can be delivered and made present to all we encounter.*

The first reading from Isaiah is one of the primary sources of Mary’s Magnificat response. Like Mary, Isaiah rejoices in the Lord because God makes justice “spring up before all the nations.” Those who experience the goodness of God’s justice and care respond by “wrapping” themselves “in a mantle of justice,” modeling the Lord who has blessed and anointed them.

Isaiah is overwhelmed by God’s faithful and attentive care and concern for the poor, the prisoners and the brokenhearted. His response is a hymn of praise. For Mary, Isaiah’s joy and praise of God is made real through the child growing in her womb. *Such motherly awareness of God informs the child in her womb to such an extent that the adult Jesus makes this passage from Isaiah the primary focus of his mission and ministry.*

While Lectionary year B is focused on Mark’s gospel, we will hear a good bit of John’s gospel being interspersed with Mark. This Sunday, John’s gospel presents the person of John the Baptist whose primary role was “to testify to

the light, so that all might believe through him.” John testified by preparing the way for others to experience the Lord and enter into deeper relationship with God. Like John, our primary vocation is to witness to Jesus through the living example of our words and actions. *Through us, others should be able to experience the living and attentive presence of God, especially in our concern for the poor and oppressed.*

Paul’s first letter to the Thessalonians commends us to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, and to give thanks to God in all circumstances. *Praying without ceasing is when our every word and action attunes us to God and allows others to be attuned to God through our example.*

This Advent, take time to thank God for all that God has done in your life, praising and rejoicing in the Lord. Like Mary, ask God for help in becoming a vessel through which others will come to know the Lord. Like John, testify to the Lord by living a life of care, concern, justice and love for all. May we always rejoice in the Lord.

Biagio Mazza
Pastoral Associate



Readings



Bible Study

Sunday, December 17

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

Psalm: Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Isaiah 61:10b)

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 24

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Psalm: Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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 offer study sessions that provide an opportunity to read, to study background to the readings, and to reflect on how to apply the readings to our lives. **Our next Bible Study date is Dec 17 at 10:30am in the conference room.** All are welcome; bring a bible. To register, call Biagio at 816-979-3153.



BELTON TRANSMISSION AND REPAIR
Domestic & Foreign
Ron Gardella, Parishioner
(816) 318-8955
315 N. Scott, Belton

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Reflexión Sobre las Lecturas

Hoy es el Domingo "Gaudete" o de "Regocijar", que viene de la primera palabra de la oración de entrada, al igual que el tema clave de las lecturas. Este tercer domingo de Adviento es el domingo de la "vela rosa" en la Corona de Adviento. Cuando el Adviento era una temporada de ayuno y abstinencia modelada en la Cuaresma, este domingo marcó un descanso en la temporada, indicando que la Navidad estaba cerca y que nuestro ayuno y penitencia de Adviento pronto terminarían.

Las lecturas presentan a dos personas claves que desempeñan un papel importante en la temporada de Adviento la cual pretende ser un momento de anticipación y preparación alegre para la venida del Señor. Tanto María como Juan el Bautista, cada uno a su manera, hacen posible la presencia de Cristo entre nosotros. María voluntariamente acepta cooperar con los planes de Dios de ser la madre del Señor, mientras que Juan asume el papel de precursor del Jesús adulto, preparando el camino del Señor.

El salmo responsorial no proviene del libro de los Salmos, sino que es uno de esas instancias leccionarias raras cuando proviene de otro libro, el evangelio de Lucas. Es conocido como el "Magnificat" de María, un himno de alegría, alabanza y acción de gracias a Dios por todas las maravillas que Dios ha hecho por la gente, los humildes que confían en el amor y la bondad de Dios. María proclama que Dios invierte los valores del mundo colmando a "los hambrientos de bienes", mientras que "los ricos" son despedidos "sin nada". Estamos invitados a unirnos a María en su himno respondiendo "Se alegra mi espíritu en Dios mi Salvador". María se convierte en el modelo ideal de Adviento en el sentido de que ella estaba abierta a ser la vasija por medio de la cual Dios sería entregado al mundo y se haría verdaderamente presente en él. Al igual que María, nuestro enfoque de Adviento es prepararnos para que, a través de nosotros, Dios pueda ser entregado y hecho presente a todos los que encontramos.

La primera lectura de Isaías es una de las fuentes principales de la respuesta Magnificat de María. Como María, Isaías se regocia en el Señor porque Dios hace que la justicia "brote ante todas las naciones". Quienes experimentan la bondad de la justicia y el cuidado de Dios responden "envolviéndose" en un "manto de justicia", modelando al Señor quien los ha bendecido y ungido.

Isaías se siente abrumado por el cuidado y la preocupación fieles y atentos de Dios por los pobres, los prisioneros y los quebrantados de corazón. Su respuesta es un himno de alabanza. Para María, el gozo y la alabanza de Dios a Isaías se hacen realidad a través del niño que crece en su vientre. Tal conciencia maternal de Dios informa al niño en su vientre a tal punto que el Jesús adulto hace que este pasaje de Isaías sea el enfoque principal de su misión y ministerio.

Mientras que el año leccionario B se centra en el evangelio de Marcos, escucharemos un buen fragmento del evangelio de Juan intercalado con Marcos. Este domingo, el evangelio de Juan presenta a la persona de Juan el Bautista cuyo papel principal era "dar testimonio de la luz, para que todos creyeran por medio de él". Juan testificó preparando el camino para que otros experimenten al Señor y entren en una relación más profunda con Dios. Al igual que Juan, nuestra vocación principal es dar testimonio de Jesús a través del ejemplo viviente de nuestras palabras y acciones. A través de nosotros, otros deberían poder experimentar la presencia viva y atenta de Dios, especialmente en nuestra preocupación por los pobres y oprimidos.

La primera carta de Pablo a los Tesalonicenses nos recomienda alegrarnos siempre, orar sin cesar y dar gracias a Dios en todas las circunstancias. Orar sin cesar es cuando cada palabra y acción nos sintoniza con Dios y permite que los demás se sintonicen con Dios a través de nuestro ejemplo.

En este Adviento, tómese el tiempo para agradecer a Dios por todo lo que Dios ha hecho en su vida, alabando y regocijándose en el Señor. Como María, pídale ayuda a Dios para que se convierta en un recipiente a través del cual otros llegarán a conocer al Señor. Como Juan, testifique al Señor viviendo una vida de cuidado, preocupación, justicia y amor por todos. Que siempre nos regocijemos en el Señor.

Biagio Mazza
Asociado Pastoral

Lecturas



Lecturas del Domingo, 17 de Diciembre

Primera Lectura: Isaías 61:1-2a, 10-11

Salmo: Lucas 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

Segunda Lectura: 1 Tesalonicenses 5:16-24

Evangelio: Juan 1:6-8, 19-28

Lecturas del Domingo, 24 de Diciembre

Primera Lectura: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Salmo: Salmo 88:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

Segunda Lectura: Romanos 16:25-27

Evangelio: Lucas 1:26-38



Ministerio Juvenil

Oportunidades para Voluntarios

Uplift Org. Si le gustaría traer comidas a las personas sin hogar en el 4° o 5° 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 4° 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 22 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 21 de Diciembre de 6-8 pm. Si desea ser voluntario, llame ó mande un correo electrónico a Kirstie en la Oficina de los jóvenes.

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 20 de Diciembre. Contacte a Berenice Zayas en la oficina parroquial para más información. 816-979-3150.

Noticias Juveniles

Donas los Martes por la Mañana! Cada martes que Belton High School tiene clases, Kirstie tendrá donas y hará oraciones con los jóvenes de High School antes de ir a la escuela. Las puertas de la Oficina de la Juventud se abrirán a las 7am para que los jóvenes pasen antes de la escuela.

La Próxima Noche de Padrinos para la Confirmación es el 17 de enero, 7-8:30pm en el Salón Parroquial. Se espera que todos los candidatos a la confirmación (jóvenes) y sus padrinos adultos asistan a estas reuniones. Si el padrino no puede asistir a una reunión con el joven, el joven todavía debe asistir. Si tienes dificultades para encontrar un padrino, póngase en contacto con Kirstie Roberts en la Oficina de la Juventud y ella estará encantada de encontrar a alguien para ti.

Seguridad Infantil

La Diócesis de Kansas City-St. Joseph esta comprometida a luchar contra el abuso sexual en la Iglesia. Si usted es víctima de abuso sexual, ó 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 víctima 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 víctimas de abuso sexual y a sus familias. Por favor póngase en contacto con la Defensora de Víctimas, Kathleen Chastain al 816.392.0011 o chastain@diocesekcsj.org para mas información.

Todas las personas que son voluntarios con los jóvenes ó 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/>



El domingo pasado, nuestros maestros de la escuela de religión disfrutaron de un desayuno de maestros juntos. ¡Un agradecimiento especial a Claudia Rodríguez, Caroline Squires, Celia Squires, Corey Morgan, Brenda Stoddard, Sarah Wheeler, Sonja Bornheimer, y -no en la foto- a Luisa Arreola, Johana Rosas, Paulina Basurto, Flor Trejo, Rachel Martínez, Elvia Mora y Eliezer Trejo, quienes comparten mucho de su tiempo y talento ayudando a nuestros niños a crecer en su fe!



Información/Corresponsabilidad

Platicas Pre-Bautismales - 13 de Enero

Normalmente cada segundo Sábado del mes de las 10 am a la 1 pm (Sólo para niños de 0-6 años.) En el salón doble del área de la escuela. Para niños mayores de 7 años requerirán una formación especial.

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.**

Las Posadas

Este 17 de Diciembre inmediatamente después de la Misa, le invitamos a compartir en familia de "Las Posadas" en el gimnasio en conmemoración al nacimiento de nuestro Niño Jesús; por favor prepare un plato con comida para compartir, ¡Les esperamos!

Felicidades Por Su Bautismo

Camila Marina Mendoza-Funes, la hija de Luis Angel Mendoza y Blanca Marina Funes.



Gracias a estas señoras y señoritas quienes dedicaron mucho tiempo haciendo piñatas para

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¡Ayúdenos a decorar la iglesia para la Navidad este
miércoles, 20 de Diciembre a las 9am!

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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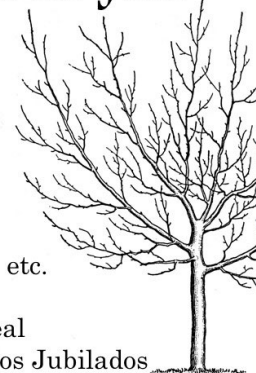
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Dec 23/24 – Religious Retirement Appeal
Apelación para los Religiosos Jubilados



Tercer Domingo de Adviento

17 de Diciembre del 2017