

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 Elle Juliana, the daughter of David and Melissa, who was baptized on Sunday, December 17th!

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

Parish Staff/Mass Intentions

Fr. Jeff Stephan , Pastor	816-979-3157 X57	frjeff@stsabinaparish.org
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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



Intentions for December 25-29, 2017

Mon.	10am	Intentions of the Altar Society
Tues.		NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
Wed.		NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
Thurs.	8am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Fri.	8am	COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday, December 30, 2017

4:00pm Intentions of Pat & Edith Riechenberger

Sunday, December 31, 2017

8:00am	†Mary Ann Hall
10:30am	†Bill and Audrey Reichert
12:30pm Spanish	Intenciones de la Familia Parroquial

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

† **Fr. Robert Stewart**, priest of our Diocese and Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in North Kansas City



Calendar/Parish Happenings

Sunday, December 24 - Domingo, 24 de Diciembre

Christmas Eve

10:00am Mass

11:00am Ensayo del Coro Hispano

12:30pm Misa Navideña

4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Monday, December 25 - Lunes, 25 de Diciembre

Christmas Day—Office Closed

10:00am Christmas Mass

4:00pm Uplift

Tuesday, December 26 - Martes, 26 de Diciembre

No Scheduled Events—Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27 - Miércoles, 27 de Diciembre

No Scheduled Events

Thursday, December 28 - Jueves, 28 de Diciembre

9:30am Quilters

Friday, December 29 - Viernes, 29 de Diciembre

No Scheduled Events

Saturday, December 30 - Sábado, 30 de Diciembre

3:00pm Confessions

3:30pm Knights Family Rosary

Sunday, December 31 - Domingo, 31 de Diciembre

New Year's Eve

11:00am Ensayo del Coro Hispano

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



Congratulations to Aaron Michael, son of Jade and Allie, who was baptized on Sunday, December 17th!



Parishioner John Cisetti has been the band director at Louisburg High School for 39 years. This year his band is marching in the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day. If you watch the parade on TV, look for John. He'll be waving to all of us. Congratulations, John!!



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.

Merry Christmas

Fr. Jeff and the parish staff would like to wish all of our parishioners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Knights Bingo and Cajun Dinner - Jan 20

Save the date for the Knights of Columbus Bingo and Cajun Dinner which will be held on Saturday, January 20th after the 4pm Mass.

Lectionary Year B and The Gospel of Mark - Faith Formation Series beginning in January

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.



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.

Dreams Fulfilled, Promises Honored!

Avila University's 42nd annual Steer Dinner & Auction benefiting student scholarships will be on February 3rd at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown Muehlebach Tower. The evening begins at 6pm and includes a cocktail reception, steak dinner, silent and live auctions and an after party with live music and dancing. Individual tickets are \$250; sponsorship opportunities begin at \$2,500 for a table of 10. Black tie optional (Avila purple is encouraged!) Register by January 26 at Avila.edu/Steer. Questions? Please call 816.501.2450 or email SteerDinner@avila.edu. Thank you, Roderick J. and Jo Anne Cyr Foundation & DJ & Ann O'Hare, honorary chairs; Rodd and Martha '66 Staker, event chairs.

happy birthday

Emma Beaver	Axel Hernandez	Kaleb Perkins
Renee Biondo	Brisneida Hinojos	Belinda Peters
Samuel Caesar	Diane Hirt	Valerie Pina
William Caesar	Leonar Huerta	Dianne Porter
Daniel Calles	Lillian Jakobe	Mason Putis
Maria Carpio	Derek Johnson	Ray Quinones
Daniel Cartagena	Donna Kappenman	Marcela Rivera
Juan Castillo	Leticia Keesoon	Riley Robinson
Maura Chavez	Paige Kinsey	Efren Rodriguez
Yahir Chavez	Jesus Landa	Angel Rodriguez
Joseph Chevalier	Manuel Lopez	Elizabeth Romero
Alexander Coffin	Paul Lynn	Kenneth Samson
Donna Dailey	Mary Madrigal	Sally Sargent
Cassandra Daldrup	Landon Marin	Joshua Schumacher
Dustan Dvergsten	Iveth Martinez	George Scott
Gustavo Enriquez	Axel Martinez	Jeff Shields
Dylan Eppert	Dora Martinez	Laurie Sigman
Pat Falcon	Brennen McDowell	Lois Simpson
Javier Franco	Mike McDowell	Stanley Smith
Leslie Garcia	Juan Medina	Precious Torres
Adriana Garcia	Karla Medina Vasquez	Virginia Valenzuela
Kelsie Giacone	Maribel Mendoza	Lisette Vargas
Sylvia Guerrero	Robert Miller	Amanda Votava
Jayden Guillermo	Matthew Mitsdarffer	Matthew Walt
Eduardo Guzman	Elias Morgan	Jerry Wilburn
Isabelle Haberstroh	Julianna Ortiz	Theo Wilson
Robert Heffernan	Jessica Palau	Armando Yanez
Cynthia Hernandez	Clifford Parsley	Chandler Yoksh

Happy Anniversary

Richard and Doris Deschenes	65 Years!	12/27/1952
Joe and Susan Lager	52 Years!	12/29/1965
James and Ann Morales	51 Years!	12/31/1966
John and Barbara Clark	50 Years!	12/30/1967
Jeffrey and Sandy Spiller	48 Years!	12/29/1969
Mike and Kris Larkey	30 Years!	12/27/1987
Anthony and Sandra Coyazo	29 Years!	12/26/1988
Arturo and Rosa Borja	28 Years!	12/29/1989
Carlos and Maria Arroyo	28 Years!	12/31/1989
Andres and Maria Orozco	26 Years!	12/27/1991
Jaime Perez and Doraida Aguirre	24 Years!	12/31/1993
Ramon and Isela Gomez	22 Years!	12/31/1995
Angel and Maria Rocha	20 Years!	12/26/1997
Alvaro Santillanes and Juana Talamantes	20 Years!	12/27/1997
Rogelio and Sara Mendiola	19 Years!	12/31/1998
Juan and Ampara Aguilera	17 Years!	12/29/2000
Aaron and Karla Coronado	14 Years!	12/27/2003
Tom and Susan Rolli	12 Years!	12/26/2005
Juan and Socorro Lopez	12 Years!	12/28/2005
Jose Damian and Maria Albor	8 Years!	12/26/2009



Stewardship

"And the angel said to her in reply, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.' Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.'"

Luke 1: 35-38

Mary's response to God is the same response we need to offer the Lord. It is most appropriate that we hear this message at this time and on this day. This took much more trust in the Lord than we might imagine. Mary agreed to receive a pregnancy that would be seen as suspect in a culture which had a potential death penalty for adultery. Spiritually speaking, there are similarities between the Lord's work in Mary and His work in all of us. Jesus lives within each of us spiritually. He lived in Mary not only spiritually but also physically. Jesus was made visible to the world through Mary physically, but He should be made visible to the world through us as well. Who we are and how we relate to and treat others is a sign to the world of Who Jesus is and what a Christian is and should be. Are we showing the world what it means to be His disciple? Is there a better time than this to do so? — See more at www.catholicsteward.com/blog/.



Jesse Tree and Christmas Thanks

Thank you to all that donated to our Jesse Tree collections, to those that donated to our adopted families, and to Euston Hardware and Rental, who supplied Christmas trees to our adopted families!

Contributions for December 17

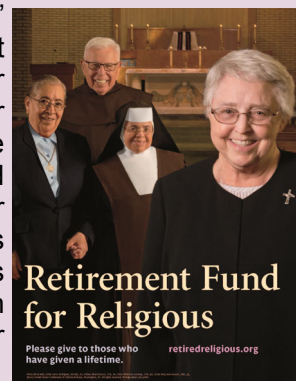
Envelopes/Sobres:	\$14,388.00
Plate/Canasta:	\$ 1,098.52
Maintenance-Upkeep:	\$ 663.00
Guadalupe:	\$ 1,626.06

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.

Collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious

"Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!



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

Recycle your used mattress and box springs at Avenue of Life in KC or have them pick it up for \$10. <http://www.avenueoflife.org/mattress-recycling.html> or call 816-787-6101.



Wellness Center

Pastoral Care



And
suddenly
there was
with the Angel
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth
Peace, goodwill towards men

Luke 2
13-14

Wishing You Joy and Peace
St. Sabina Wellness Center



Prayer Requests/Peticiones de Oración

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

Christmas Poinsettia Thanks

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

Gary Palmer, The Gebauer Family, Joseph Falco, Sr., Albert and Loritta Verhulst, Walter Zmuda, Carl Parrott, James E. Ohnemus, Elwood and Teresa Link, Bob Meiron, George Pierce, Frances Storm, Albert Storm, Judy Kemper, Joe Rhodes, Marjorie Rhodes, Cristina Cornejo, Harold Brown, Ray Silvers, Casey Pointer, Henedina C. Reyes, Larry Schmidt, Nanci Smith, Frances Birkner, William P. Birkner, Jean Bidondo, Dolores Bidondo, James E. Jones, Jr., Donald Moorman, Elmer C. Parker, Deceased Members of the Ragsdale Family, Simone Clements, Roger Robert, John C. Mayabb, L. James Wolfe, Herman and Hilda Kemna, Charles Kemna, Bobbie Kemna, Karen Taylor, Harold Oliver, Dixie Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Yust, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Keith Buell, Virgil Duncney, Ed Croghan, Delores Croghan, Lillian Parker, Megan Ramos, Pamela Ramos, Barbara Burdick, Raymond P. Burns, Maria Teresa Ortega, Justin Chrane, Juan G. Gogue, Magdalena K. Gogue, Jay K. Gogue, Maria K. Gogue, Maggie K. Gogue, Ivan Dull, and Felix Suwito

Nursing Home Mass Schedule

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

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.



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, 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, January 22nd.**

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 18, 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 Jan. 17.** 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/>

Prayer Request from our Bishop for Dreamers

Bishop Johnston has declared that Sunday, December 31st, the Feast of the Holy Family, be a day of special prayer for the enactment of just legislation which upholds the rights of Dreamers. The Bishop has written the following in regards to the Dreamers, "These are the immigrants who were brought to our country as minors and who are now in grave danger due to the lack of legal protection. As of March 5, 2018, this class of people will no longer enjoy the safeguards offered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, i.e., DACA. These young people are a gift to our nation; they build up our economy through their labors; they protect our nation in the military; they worship God in our churches. While our nation has both the right and duty to foster its security through prudent immigration laws, we must not attempt to purchase safety at the cost of violating the fundamental dignity of our fellow men and women, many of whom share our faith in Christ." Please join with Bishop Johnston on December 31st to pray for all Dreamers, especially those that are our parishioners.



Reflection on the Readings

This last Sunday of Advent introduces Mary and Joseph as key players in God's plan for becoming one of us.

From the beginning, God created and still creates out of love. By its very nature, love ultimately seeks oneness with the one loved. God's plan all along was to be intimate with all of us.

God did not become human because of our sinfulness. Rather God chose from the very beginning to become more intimate with all of creation by choosing to become fully human.

God could have chosen other ways to become more intimate with us. Instead, God chooses to become human and dwell among us by requesting our openness and cooperation in the plan. *It is this human openness, cooperation and response to God that we celebrate today in the readings, along with God's gracious gift of intimacy with us in the person of Jesus.* Responsorial Psalm 89 captures this celebratory theme when it invites us to sing, "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

The first reading from 2 Samuel recounts David's desire to build a house or temple for God. God responds through Nathan the prophet that God does not need a house to dwell in because God has been present with the people in the tent that moved with them wherever they went.

There seems to be an underlying rejection of a permanent dwelling for God, lest the people forget that God is in their midst wherever they are.

If God resides in a sacred space, then when we are no



longer in that sacred space, does that mean that God is no longer with us? That is the question that this reading seems to address. *God's response is that we should not house God in one place but rather it is God who builds residences for us in which God chooses to reside. In other words, God chooses where and with whom God will reside and not humanity.* It is God's choice to reside with all people that moves us to sing our psalm response "Forever, I will sing the goodness of the Lord."

The convoluted single sentence reading from Paul's letter to the Romans calls us to affirm the reality that it is God who strengthens us. *For Paul, God, in and through Jesus, has become intimate with us, has strengthened us, and has been made known and proclaimed "to all nations."* Paul asserts that all this is God's doing. Our response to "the only wise God" is to offer praise and glory to God forever for the gracious gift of Jesus, the foundation stone to the house that God has built for all people.

Luke's gospel account focuses on the angel's annunciation to Mary of God's desire to build a dwelling place with all humanity in and through her. *While confused and questioning what all this ultimately means,*

Mary expresses openness, trust and a complete desire to cooperate with God. Mary thus becomes the ultimate model for anyone who seeks to do God's will. *A deep relationship with God leads to trust in God, to openness and cooperation with God's plan no matter how confused or troubled we might be.*

As we draw closer to celebrating Christmas this coming week, take Mary as your model. Ask God for the grace to attune yourself to what God desires of you along with the strength and courage to be open, to trust deeply, and to cooperate. *Allow God to lead you, even in darkness, and like Mary you too will discover the intimacy of God with us in the person of Jesus, God-become-human.* May God dwell intimately with you this Christmas and always.

Biagio Mazza, Pastoral Associate



Readings



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

Sunday, December 31

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Psalm: Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (7a, 8a)

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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 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 Jan. 28 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

Owen LUMBER CO.
HARDWARE-BUILDING MATERIALS-PAINT
617 North Scott Belton, MO 64012
P.O. Box 619
331-2211 Fax 331-0981
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Reflexión Sobre las Lecturas

Este último domingo de Adviento presenta a María y José como roles claves en el plan de Dios para convertirse en uno de nosotros. Desde el principio, Dios creó y aún crea por amor. Por su propia naturaleza, el amor en última instancia busca la unidad con el amado. El plan de Dios siempre fue tener intimidad con todos nosotros. Dios no se hizo humano debido a nuestra pecaminosidad. Más bien, Dios eligió desde el principio para hacerse más íntimo con toda la creación al elegir convertirse completamente en humano.

Dios pudo haber elegido otras formas de intimidad con nosotros. En cambio, Dios elige hacerse humano y habitar entre nosotros solicitando nuestra apertura y cooperación en el plan. *Es esta apertura humana, cooperación y respuesta a Dios lo que celebramos hoy en las lecturas, junto con el regalo de Dios de la intimidad con nosotros en la persona de Jesús.* El Salmo responsorial 88 capta este tema de celebración cuando nos invita a cantar: "Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor".

La primera lectura de 2 Samuel relata el deseo de David de construir una casa o templo para Dios. Dios responde a través del profeta Natán que Dios no necesita una casa para habitar porque Dios ha estado presente con las personas en la tienda de campaña que se mudaba con ellos a donde quiera que fueran. *Parece haber un rechazo subyacente de una vivienda permanente para Dios, no sea que la gente olvide que Dios está en medio de ellos donde sea que estén.*

Si Dios reside en un espacio sagrado, entonces cuando ya no estemos en ese espacio sagrado, ¿significa eso que Dios ya no está con nosotros? Esa es la pregunta que esta lectura parece abordar. *La respuesta de Dios es que no debemos albergar a Dios en un lugar, sino que es Dios quien construye las residencias para nosotros en las que Dios elige residir. En otras palabras, Dios elige dónde y con quién residirá y no la humanidad.* Es la elección de Dios residir con todas las personas y eso nos mueve a cantar nuestra respuesta al salmo "Cantaré eternamente las misericordias del Señor".

La enigmática oración simple que se lee de la carta de Pablo a los Romanos nos llama a afirmar la realidad de que es Dios quien nos fortalece. *Para Pablo, Dios, en y por medio de Jesús, se ha hecho íntimo con nosotros, nos ha fortalecido y ha sido conocido y proclamado "a todas las naciones". Pablo afirma que todo esto es obra de Dios.* Nuestra respuesta al "Dios único, infinitamente sabio" es ofrecer alabanza y gloria a Dios para siempre por el regalo de Jesús, la piedra angular de la casa que Dios ha edificado para todos.

El relato del Evangelio de Lucas se centra en la anunciación del ángel a María del deseo de Dios de construir una morada con toda la humanidad en ella y por medio de ella. *Mientras ella estaba confundida sobre todo lo que esto significa en última instancia, María expresa apertura, confianza y un deseo total de cooperar con Dios.* María se convierte así en el modelo definitivo para cualquiera que busque hacer la voluntad de Dios. *Una relación profunda con Dios conduce a la confianza en Dios, a la apertura y la cooperación con el plan de Dios sin importar cuán confusos o problemáticos estemos.*

Ya que nos acercamos a celebrar la Navidad esta semana que viene, tome a María como su modelo. Pídale a Dios la gracia de adaptarse a lo que Dios desea de usted junto con la fuerza y el valor para ser abierto, confiar profundamente y cooperar. Permita que Dios lo guíe, incluso en la oscuridad, y como María, usted también descubrirá la intimidad de Dios con nosotros en la persona de Jesús, Dios convertido en humano. Que Dios more íntimamente consigo esta Navidad y siempre.



Oración del Obispo para los Dreamers

El Obispo Santiago ha declarado el domingo 31 de diciembre del 2017 como la Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia, será un día de oración especial para la promulgación de una legislación justa que defienda los derechos de los Soñadores. El Obispo ha escrito lo siguiente con respecto a los Soñadores: *"Estos son los inmigrantes que fueron traídos a nuestro país como menores y que ahora están en grave peligro debido a la falta de protección legal, a partir del 5 de marzo de 2018, ellos ya no disfrutarán de la protección que ofrece la Acción Diferida para los que llegaron siendo infantes (DACA). Estos jóvenes son un regalo para nuestra nación, construyen nuestra economía a través de sus labores, ellos protegen a nuestra nación en el ejército, ellos también alaban a Dios en nuestras iglesias; si bien nuestra nación tiene el derecho y el deber de fomentar su seguridad a través de leyes de inmigración prudentes, no debemos intentar comprar seguridad a costa de violar la dignidad fundamental de nuestros semejantes, muchos de los cuales comparten nuestra fe en Cristo".* Por favor únase con el Obispo Johnston este 31 de diciembre para orar por todos los Soñadores, especialmente aquellos que son nuestros feligreses.

**Biagio Mazza,
Asociado Pastoral**

Lecturas



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

Lecturas del Domingo, 31 de Diciembre

Primera Lectura: Génesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Salmo: Salmo 105:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Segunda Lectura: Hebreos 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Evangelio: Lucas 2:22-40

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 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 18 de Enero 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 17 de Enero. 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 victima 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 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 Victimas, 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/>

Gracias a Chely's y Mexico Viejo

La Iglesia Santa Sabina y el Ministerio Hispano agradecen a Chely's Café y Restaurante México Viejo por su generosa ayuda en la donación de comida para nuestra Festividad en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe y Las Posadas Navideñas. ¡Les deseamos muchos más éxitos en sus negocios!

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.**



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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

**Felicidades a nuestra
comunidad Hispana que
celebró el Día de Guadalupe el
12 de Diciembre. Gracias a
todos los que participaron.**

Cuarto Domingo de Adviento

24 de Diciembre del 2017