

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 Don and Marilyn
Grieb, who celebrated their 48th wedding
anniversary with a special blessing at
Mass on November 22nd!**

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.**

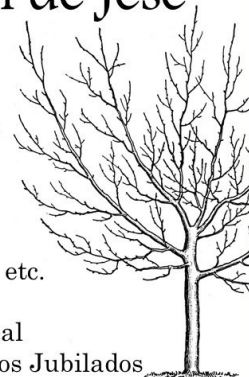
Jesse Tree Collections Colectas del Árbol de Jesé

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



First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 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 4-8, 2017

Mon.	8am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Tues.	6pm	COMMUNION SERVICE
Wed.	10:30am	COMMUNION SERVICE (Beautiful Savior)
Thurs.	8am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Fri.	8am	†Terry Henry
	6pm	†Fran Birkner

Saturday, December 9, 2017

4:00pm Intentions of the Parish Family

Sunday, December 10, 2017

8:00am	†George and Babe Saling
10:30am	†Mary "Joan" Wehner
12:30pm Spanish	†Esther Flores Bahena

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

†Mary "Joan" Wehner, wife of Bud Wehner

†Bill Reichert, father of Christine Finchum, Bill Reichert and Brian Reichert



Calendar/Parish Happenings

Sunday, December 3 - Domingo, 3 de Diciembre

Altar Society Sale

- 9:00am PSR/Parents Lounge
- 9:00am Breakfast with Santa/Desayuno con Santa
- 11:00am Ensayo del Coro Hispano
- 11:00am Escuela de Religión
- 1:30pm Planificación para la Celebración Guadalupana
- 1:45pm Ensayo para la Obra
- 6:00pm Ensayo para la Pastorela
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana
- 8:00pm Ensayo de Matachines

Monday, December 4 - Lunes, 4 de Diciembre

- 5:30pm Marian Prayer Group
- 7:00pm Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana
- 7:00pm Ensayo para la Pastorela
- 8:00pm Ensayo de Matachines

Tuesday, December 5 - Martes, 5 de Diciembre

- 7:00am HS Youth Prayer Breakfast
- 7:00pm ESL/Inglés Como Segunda Lengua
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana
- 7:00pm Living Stones
- 7:00pm Ensayos para la Obra y Matachines

Wednesday, December 6 - Miércoles, 6 de Diciembre

- 9:00am Legion of Mary
- 10:30am Communion Service at Beautiful Savior
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana
- 7:00pm Choir Practice (4:00 and 10:30 groups)
- 7:00pm Jr High Youth Group to Longview Lights
- 7:00pm Knights Business Meeting
- 8:00pm Ensayo de Matachines

Thursday, December 7 - Jueves, 7 de Diciembre

- 9:30am Quilters
- 7:00pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting
- 7:00pm RCIA/RICA
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana, Ensayo para la Obra
- 8:00pm Choir Practice (8:00 group)
- 8:00pm Ensayo de Matachines

Friday, December 8 - Viernes, 8 de Diciembre

- Immaculate Conception/Concepción Inmaculada
- 8:00am Holy Day Mass
- 6:00pm Bilingual Holy Day Mass/Misa Bilingüe
- 7:00pm Ensayos para las Posadas, la Pastorela, y la Obra
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana

Saturday, December 9 - Sábado, 9 de Diciembre

- 10:00am Pláticas Pre-bautismales
- 3:00pm Confessions
- 6:00pm Ensayo para las Posadas
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana

Sunday, December 10 - Domingo, 10 de Diciembre

- 9:00am PSR/Parents Lounge
- 10:30am Bible Study
- 11:00am Ensayo del Coro Hispano
- 11:00am Escuela de Religión
- 1:30pm Coro de Guadalupe
- 1:45pm Ensayo para la Obra
- 6:00pm Ensayo para la Pastorela
- 7:00pm Confirmation and High School Youth Group
- 7:00pm Novena Guadalupana
- 8:00pm Ensayo de Matachines

Religious Articles Sale

The Altar Society will be selling a beautiful selection of religious articles, jewelry and Advent items after all Masses on the weekend of Dec 2/3. All proceeds benefit St. Sabina Parish.

Holy Day and Christmas Mass Times

On December 8th, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we will have a Mass in English at 8am and a bilingual Mass at 6pm.

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.



Parish Happenings



Uplift Thanksgiving Dinner

St. Sabina Parish

Invites you and your family to our parish celebration
in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12, 2017

6:00pm: Re-enactment of the Apparitions of Our
Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego

6:45pm: Matachines Dancers

7:00pm Mass in Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00pm: Fiesta/party



St. Sabina Parish
700 Trevis Ave,
Belton, MO 64012
816-331-4713

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.

Area Advent Reconciliation Service

St. Regis/St. Matthew Advent Reconciliation Service will be at St. Regis Church on Wednesday, December 13 at 6pm.

Experience Taizé prayer; open to the community

You are invited to participate in Taizé prayer on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in Annunciation Chapel on the campus of the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, 4200 S. 4th Street, Leavenworth, Kan. For more information about this meditative, candlelit service, visit www.marillaccenter.org or call 913-680-2342.

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/adopterightsact.php for more detailed information about the new law.

MARRIED COUPLES

NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION

date night - advent
thurs, dec 7
6:30-7:30pm
St. Peter's (kcmo)

Adoration, advent reflection,
scripture, live praise music,
candles, silence, confession...



school
of love

happy birthday

Israel Amador	Angel Gracida	Isabel Messer
Anna Anderson	Edgar Guzman	Alexia Mitchell
Brenda Arenivas	John Hagemann	Patrick Mittelstadt
Leonardo Arreola	Sarah Hagemann	Casey Morgan
Steven Ayers	Jean Hanover	Christine Morris
David Barberis	Lucy Harlan	Kathleen Muder
Krissy Berkovich	Jessica Hernandez	Caroline Neal
Phil Bohnert	Alfredo Hernandez	Isham Nelson
Arturo Borja	Ron Hoffman	Hugh Owings
Mary Boyd	Barbara Hopkins	Ailyn Palomares
Fatima Bretado - Picasso	Paul Imming	Jaime Perez
Amanda Buendia	Renee Kerckhoff	Vivian Petersen
Marysol Canchola	Whitney Kirchhoff	Gabriel Pinon
John Carrell	Bob Kottenbrock	Amy Pope
Analise Cartier	Clemente Landa	Zayden Priewe
Paul Castonguay	Chelsea Landaverde	Sergio Ramos
Barbara Clark	Philip Lang	Alexa Robledo
Miranda Como	Diane Lang	Joanna Rodelo
Holly Coover	Louise Large-Gurin	Jose Rodriguez
Theresa Earhart	Emmie Lenz	Andrew Rogers
Breckin Embry	Jamie Logan	Ron Schock
Andrea Emerick	Fabian Lopez	Marjorie Storm
Michelle Emry	Yesica Lopez	Rodney Stoverink
Dora Estrada	Araceli Lopez	Christopher Thompson
Arleth Flores	Leocadio Lopez	Sergio Valenzuela
Alex Flores	Karen Lopez	Michaela VanSickle
Sandy Flynn	Ana Mata Franco	Leticia Villa
Deborah Freisthler	Tim McDonough	Gilber Villeda-Castillo
Olivia Fuentes	Nicholas McGurn	Danielle Weeks
Jose Garcia	Leonard Meiron	Lucas Weeks
Christopher Gnad	Irandy Melendez	Timothy White
Emily Goffoy	Teodoro Mendoza	Nataly Wood
Jessica Gonzalez	Karla Menjivar	Patricia Zeitelhack

Happy Anniversary

Sherman and Leona Ragsdale	54 Years!	12/7/1963
Greg and Carol Mull	40 Years!	12/9/1977
Bill and Sheila Birkner	40 Years!	12/10/1977
Kenneth and Teresa McDonald	33 Years!	12/7/1984
Victor and Alma Duarte	24 Years!	12/4/1993
Jose and Jesusita Peralez	22 Years!	12/9/1995
Brian and Caroline Niemeyer	19 Years!	12/5/1998
Mark and Melissa Adams	15 Years!	12/9/2002



Stewardship

“Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”
Mark 13: 35-37

For many Advent and Christmas are times of light, whether it is the light of the candles on Advent wreaths or the lights on a tree or the festive lights which decorate many houses and businesses. Jesus brings light into our worlds, but we must allow this light to permeate our own lives, to enter into the dark and sinful parts of our lives to illuminate and cleanse them. This should be a time of renewed prayer and penance which truly prepares us to “watch” for the Lord, not just at Christmas but throughout our lives. There is a natural wonder among children at this time of year, but sometimes as we age, we lose that sense as if we are sleeping. It is time to awaken. Our minds may say “Let go” but our spirituality tells us to “Awaken.” We are filled with spiritual depths. It is time to seek them, find them, and awaken them. It is Advent, time for us to awaken and become aware of the gifts of love we have received from God and others. Or as Jesus reminds us: “Watch.” — See more at www.catholicsteward.com/blog/

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Food for the Poor - Dec 2-3

This weekend we welcome Fr. Chris Steinle from Food for the Poor. He will speak to us about their ministry of feeding hundreds of thousands of people everyday, primarily in 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

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Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)

Thanks to the 214 families who have contributed to the Annual Catholic Appeal. So far we have received \$28,967.00 in pledges and contributions. We are trying to achieve 100% participation; 13.9% of our families have made a contribution or pledge thus far.

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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!

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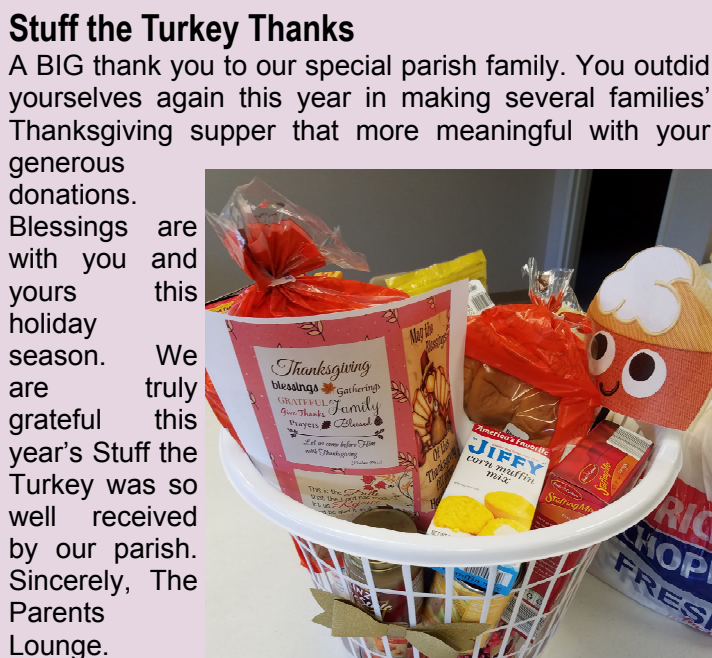
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Stuff the Turkey Thanks

A BIG thank you to our special parish family. You outdid yourselves again this year in making several families' Thanksgiving supper that more meaningful with your generous donations. Blessings are with you and yours this holiday season. We are truly grateful this year's Stuff the Turkey was so well received by our parish. Sincerely, The Parents Lounge.

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Contributions for November 19	
Envelopes/Sobres:	\$13,038.00
Plate/Canasta:	\$ 898.50
Maintenance-Upkeep:	\$ 675.00
Parish Mission:	\$ 2,058.00
Tomorrow's Priest:	\$ 1,001.00
Contributions for November 26	
Envelopes/Sobres:	\$7,653.00
Plate/Canasta:	\$ 709.31
Maintenance-Upkeep:	\$ 441.00
Thanksgiving:	\$ 835.00

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Online Giving

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Green Team Tip of the Week
Learn ways to reduce your holiday waste! <http://greenabilitymagazine.com/blog/2016/12/reduce-holiday-waste-season/>

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Pastoral Care

Nursing Home Mass Schedule

Dec 6 10:30am	Beautiful Savior (Communion Service)
Dec 13 10:00am	Redwood of Raymore
Dec 20 10:00am	Foxwood Springs

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
Paul DeMar	Jo Locke	Angel Thomas
Nolan Dickerson	Israel Luna	Bruce Thompson
Steven DiGeorge	Bonita Mackedanz	Rhonda VanDyne
Frances DiGeorge	Leonard Meiron	William VanDyne
Argentina Meza Dubon	Harry Muench	Harvey Vice
Carol Eckford	Joan Muench	Sunny Vigil
Brian Effertz	Bella Nouryeh	Donna West
Terry Eppert	Jane Nouryeh	Mary Westfall
Joan Feedback	Thelma Palmer	Marie Wilburn
Larry Foster	Dee Raya	Jeannette Woolworth
Emily Frezza	Patricia Rellihan	Merle Woolworth
Dick Garnier	Clarence Reynolds	Carmitia Yust
June Glunt	Helen Rush	Pablo Zayas
Karen Grantham	Yvonne Salmon	

Wellness Center

Did you know stress and depression can hurt your health and ruin your holidays? Here are a few practical tips to de-stress during the holidays. The most important tip is to keep the true meaning of Christmas front and center, the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❄️ Manage your schedule. Determine how many and which social engagements you will attend or host. Clarify how many days a week you wish to be out and how many days you will need to rest at home. Take a few moments and be honest with what kind of holiday season will keep you healthy and rested.
- ❄️ Don't forget your prayers. Don't sacrifice your mindfulness/spiritual practices. The intensity of the season can create a sense of chaos in your schedule and therefore in your emotional state. The key to remaining centered, making better choices, and experiencing more joy is keeping meditation/prayer, fitness/nutrition and action through kindness a top priority.
- ❄️ Be flexible. It is unreasonable to assume that your typical routines will remain the same. Be open to options and choices you hadn't considered.

Most people forget the gifts they gave or the gifts they received over the years. What you remember are the moments made special like an unexpected visit from a dear friend or family member, the glow from the fireplace and the twinkling lights, the faces of children, or feeling the presence of God as you open your heart and mind to the joy of this very special season.

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 Circuit Training 6-7pm
Wednesday:	Intermediate Yoga 1-2pm Gentle Yoga 2-3pm Restorative Yoga 6-7pm
Thursday:	Stretch & Strength 1-2pm Gentle Stretch & Strength 2-3pm Yoga 6-7pm
Friday:	Intermediate Yoga 1-2pm Gentle Yoga 2-3pm ReFit® 6-7pm



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 December 13th, 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.

On December 10th, the High School Youth Group will be stuffing stockings for the homeless of Kansas City through Uplift Organization. We are accepting donations of travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, hand sanitizer, deodorant etc.), small snacks,

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/>

candles, matches, hand and foot warmers, Christmas cards, ribbon and candy. You may drop your gift off at the Youth Office during the week during office hours or after Masses in the Uplift box in the back of church. If you have any questions about your donation, please contact Kirstie Roberts in the Youth Office.

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!

Breakfast with Santa The second grade PSR class will be hosting Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 3, 8:30am-noon. Come enjoy a pancake breakfast and get your wish list in to Santa! Adults are \$10 each, Families are \$20 each. Age 2 and under are free. Funds will help the second grade class purchase Christmas gifts for a family in need.



Reflection on the Readings

Today begins the Advent season, our community's new year of grace. New beginnings always rise up from the ashes of the past. So too in the liturgical year. The closing liturgical emphases of this past year of grace are reprised again as we begin anew. We transition slowly to a new year of grace by recalling similar liturgical themes of end time, judgment, and the return of Jesus to bring God's reign to fulfillment.

With each new liturgical year, our gospel focus shifts. Year B is devoted to unpacking the gospel according to Mark. *This Sunday's gospel cries out with advice from Jesus to "Be watchful! Be alert!"* But aren't we preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, the coming of God-with-us as a baby? *If so, why are we being challenged to be watchful and alert? What is there about Advent that necessitates being watchful and alert?*

The first two Sundays of Advent tend to be stark reminders that our beginning and our end are intimately related. Both Sundays focus our attention on the Lord's surprise second coming in judgment and fulfillment. We are to be watchful and alert for we do not know when the Lord will come. *Therefore, our attention and our lives are to be lived continually from the perspective that the Lord may return today.* Will you be ready to welcome the Lord fully and enthusiastically? For this reason, Mark's Jesus challenges all his disciples to be watchful and alert.

What discipline is required to become watchful and alert disciples? Awareness of our own limitations, especially our desire to have things our own way rather than God's way, is crucial. *The first reading from Isaiah clearly presents a Jewish covenant community fully aware of its failure to be faithful to God in their daily comings and goings.* Yet they are also alert to the reality that God is a loving father, always faithful, and ever ready to forgive if we but turn to the Lord for mercy.

The refrain from responsorial Psalm 80 attunes us to our constant need of God's help if we are to be alert and watchful for the Lord's presence in our daily encounters. We are invited this Sunday to sing "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." Being alert and watchful enables us to see

God's face in every human encounter.

Paul's second reading from 1 Corinthians assures that by aligning ourselves with Christ Jesus, we will have no fear of the end time. Living like Christ will keep us firm to the end, empowering us to see the face of God in the other, no matter how difficult or demanding. With *Les Misérables*, we are reminded that "to love another person is to see the face of God."

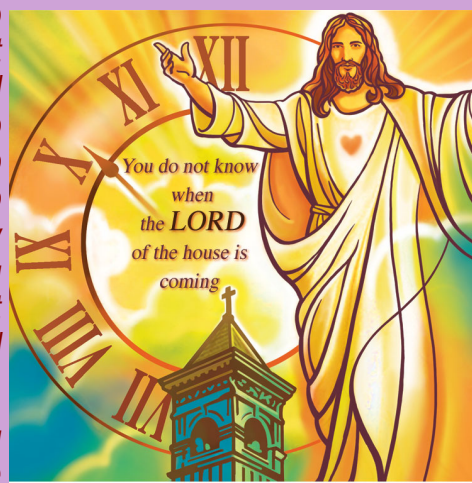
This Advent, as we joyfully anticipate the celebration of God-with-us at Christmas, what discipline will you cultivate to attune yourself to seeing the face and presence of God in your daily life?

How will you keep watchful and alert for any and all opportunities to show love and to practice justice to others, especially toward those you find most challenging and demanding?

How will you ensure that the trappings of commercialism do not make you drowsy and sleepy on your faith journey as a disciple of Jesus?

May this Advent be an enriching beginning to our new year of grace.

Biagio Mazza
Pastoral Associate



Readings



Bible Study

Sunday, December 3

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Psalm: Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Sunday, December 10

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalm: Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)
2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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.



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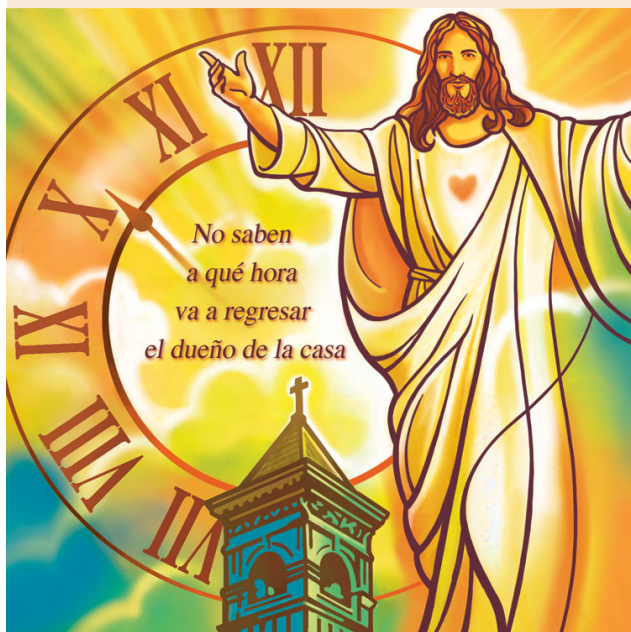
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Reflexión Sobre las Lecturas

Hoy comienza la temporada de Adviento, el nuevo año de gracia de nuestra comunidad. Nuevos comienzos siempre surgen de las cenizas del pasado. Así también en el año litúrgico. El énfasis litúrgico conclusivo de este año pasado de gracia se vuelve a repetir cuando comenzamos de nuevo. *Transitamos lentamente a un nuevo año de gracia recordando temas litúrgicos similares sobre el tiempo del fin, el juicio y el regreso de Jesús para llevar a cabo el Reino de Dios.*

Con cada nuevo año litúrgico, nuestro enfoque evangélico cambia. El año "B" está dedicado a desempacar el evangelio según San Marcos. *El evangelio de este domingo grita con el consejo de Jesús: "Velen y estén preparados"* ¿Pero no nos estamos preparando para celebrar el cumpleaños de Jesús, la venida de Dios-con-nosotros como un bebé? *Si es así, ¿por qué nos desafían a estar atentos y preparados? ¿Qué hay acerca del Adviento que necesita el estar atento y preparado?*



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Los primeros dos domingos de Adviento tienden a ser claros recordatorios de que nuestro comienzo y nuestro final están íntimamente relacionados. Ambos domingos centran nuestra atención en la segunda venida del Señor en el juicio y la realización. Debemos estar atentos y preparados porque no sabemos cuándo vendrá el Señor. *Por lo tanto, nuestra atención y nuestras vidas deben ser vividas continuamente desde la perspectiva de que el Señor pueda regresar hoy.* ¿Estarás listo para recibir al Señor de manera plena y entusiasta? Por esta razón, el Jesús de Marcos reta a todos sus discípulos a estar atentos y preparados.

¿Qué disciplina se requiere para convertirse en discípulos atentos y preparados? La conciencia de nuestras propias limitaciones, especialmente nuestro deseo de hacer las cosas a nuestra manera y no a la de Dios, es crucial. *La primera lectura de Isaías presenta claramente una comunidad de alianza judía plenamente consciente de su fracaso de ser fieles a Dios en sus idas y venidas diarias.* Sin embargo, también están alertas a la realidad de que Dios es un padre amoroso, siempre fiel y siempre listo para perdonar si nos volvemos hacia el Señor por misericordia.

El estribillo del Salmo responsorial 79 nos sintoniza con nuestra constante necesidad de la ayuda de Dios si queremos estar alertas y preparados para la presencia del Señor en nuestros encuentros diarios. Estamos invitados este domingo a cantar "Señor, Dios nuestro, restáuranos, que brille tu rostro y nos salve". Estar alerta y preparado nos permite ver el rostro de Dios en cada encuentro humano.

La segunda lectura de Pablo de 1 Corintios asegura que al alinearnos con Cristo Jesús, no tendremos miedo del tiempo final. Vivir como Cristo nos mantendrá firmes hasta el final, dándonos la facultad de ver el rostro de Dios en el otro, sin importar que tan difícil o exigente sea. Con *Les Misérables*, se nos recuerda que "amar a otra persona es ver el rostro de Dios".

Este Adviento, mientras esperamos con alegría la celebración de Dios-con-nosotros en Navidad, ¿qué disciplina cultivará para sintonizarse a usted mismo al ver el rostro y la presencia de Dios en su vida diaria?

¿Cómo velará y estará preparado para todas y cada una de las oportunidades para mostrar amor y practicar la justicia a los demás, especialmente a aquellos que le parecen más desafiantes y exigentes?

¿Cómo se asegurará de que las trampas del comercialismo no le adormezcan en su camino de fe como discípulo de Jesús?

Que este Adviento sea un comienzo enriquecedor para nuestro nuevo año de gracia.

Biagio Mazza
Asociado Pastoral

Lecturas



Lecturas del Domingo, 3 de Diciembre

Primera Lectura: Isaías 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Salmo: Salmo 79:2ac, 3b, 15-16, 18-19
Segunda Lectura: 1 Corintios 1:3-9
Evangelio: Marcos 13:33-37

Lecturas del Domingo, 10 de Diciembre

Primera Lectura: Isaías 40:1-5, 9-11
Salmo: Salmo 84:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14
Segunda Lectura: 2 Pedro 3:8-14
Evangelio: Marcos 1:1-8

Ministerio Juvenil

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 13 de diciembre, 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.

El 10 de diciembre, el Grupo Juvenil de la High School rellenará calcetines navideños para las personas sin hogar de Kansas City a través de la Organización Uplift. Estamos aceptando donaciones de artículos de higiene (champú, acondicionador, enjuague bucal, pasta de dientes, cepillos de dientes, loción, desinfectante para manos, desodorante, etc.), pequeños bocadillos, velas, cerillas, calentadores de manos y pies, tarjetas de Navidad, listones y dulces. Puede dejar su donación en la Oficina de la Juventud durante la semana durante el horario de oficina o después de las Misas en la caja de Uplift en espacio de reunión. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre su donación, comuníquese con Kirstie Roberts en la Oficina de la Juventud.

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/>



Liturgia de Niños



Información/Corresponsabilidad

Platicas Pre-Bautismales - 9 de Diciembre

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.**

Apelación Católica Anual (ACA)

Gracias a las 214 familias que han contribuido a la Apelación Católica Anual. Hasta ahora hemos recibido \$10,384.00 en promesas y contribuciones. Estamos tratando de lograr el 100% de participación; 13.9% de nuestras familias han hecho una contribución o promesa hasta el momento.

Novena a la Virgen de Guadalupe

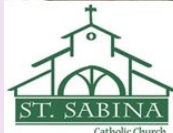


Las Posadas

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

Reunión de Planificación para la Celebración Guadalupana

Si desea integrar alguno de los diferentes grupos que se formarán para esta celebración, le invitamos a acompañarnos el 3 de Diciembre a una reunión a la 1:30 p.m. en el Salón Parroquial. ¡Le esperamos! Si desea hacer alguna donación a nuestra festividad, por favor contacte a Rita Lopez al 816-301-1708 o a Berenice Zayas al 816-979-5150.



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En esta foto aparecen los que asistieron
el desierto de los Talleres de Oración y
Vida el 18 de Noviembre.

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

**Visite nuestra página web para el
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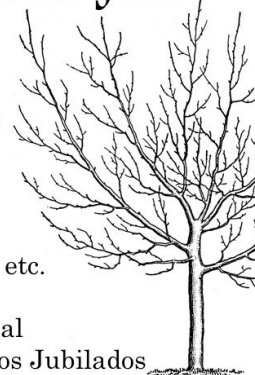
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Dec 9/10 – Canned Food
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Dec 16/17 – Gloves, hats, socks, etc.
Guantes, gorros, calcetines, etc.

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



Primer Domingo en Adviento

3 de Diciembre del 2017