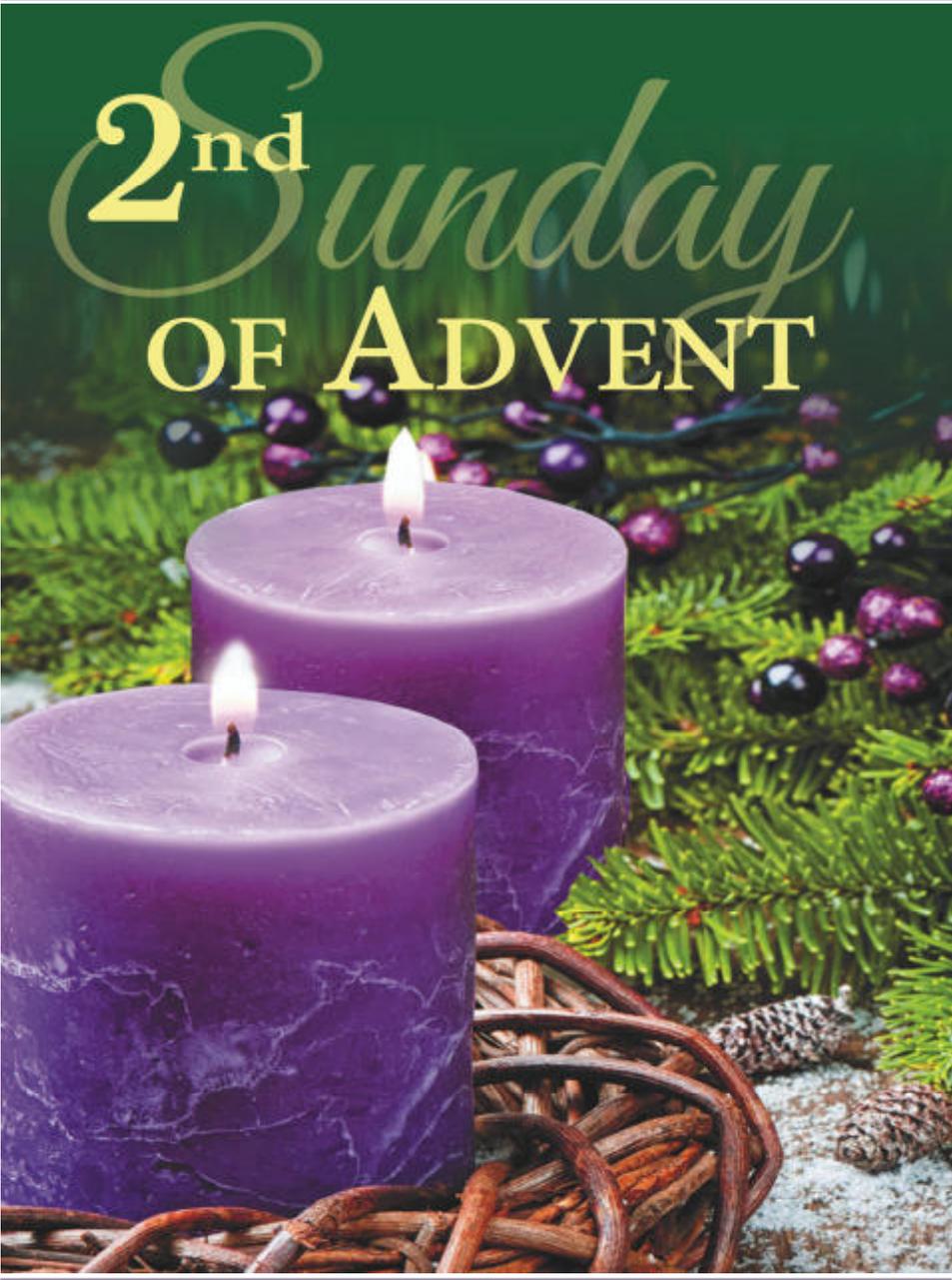


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www.ssmartyr.org
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 School 635-7141
 Cafeteria 635-6895
 Daycare & Pre-School 635-3505
 Activities Center 635-3505
 St. Vincent de Paul 635-4414

Staff

Pastor

Rev. Harry J. Gelthaus
hgelthaus@ssmartyr.org

Senior Deacon

Mr. Steve DaPonte
daponte156@gmail.com

Senior Deacon

Mr. Syl Nitzken

Director of Music

Stuart Wicke
swicke@ssmartyr.org

Business Manager

Mrs. Celeste Fautz
cfautz@ssmartyr.org

Principal

Mrs. Bridget Britt
bbritt@ssmartyr.org

CRE

Stacey Smith
ssmith@ssmartyr.org

Pre-School Director

Mrs. Rebecca Jenkins
rienkins@ssmartyr.org

Parish Council

Pastor, Fr. Harry Gelthaus
Chairperson, Patty Norton.....773-6356
Administration/Finance, Ray Brown.648-5667
Parish Life, Patty Norton.....773-6356
Worship, Vacant.....
Recording Secretary, Vacant.....
 Rob Greenwell.....936-0245
 Heather Schardein.....387-9096

Current Mass Schedules

Weekend: Sunday 10:30 am
Saturday 4:00 pm & Sunday 8:30 -
Remain Cancelled at This Time
Weekday: Monday–Thursday 8:15am
Communion Services–Saturday 8:15am
Remain Cancelled at This Time
Holyday: announced times in bulletin.
Sunday 10:30 am Mass will be also live
Streamed Facebook Page

Sacraments

Baptism: Call parish office for appointment and preparation.
Confession:
1st Sat. each month following 4:00 pm
Mass Canceled - By appointment
Marriage: Please contact priest at least six months in advance.
 Bulletin Deadline-Monday Noon

St. Stephen Martyr Parish Vision:

To be a community that loves and serves God and one another

St. Stephen Martyr

Parish Mission Statement:

To worship God as a Catholic faith community for the salvation of all

Why Do We Do That Catholic Life Explained

Can a divorced Catholic receive
holy Communion?



Unfortunately, too many people today – Catholics and non-Catholics alike – mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have “endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life.” (Amoris Laetitia, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, “The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty.” (AL, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is “not a prize for the perfect,” but “a powerful medicine and nourishment” (Evangeli Gaudium, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

Time, Talent and Treasure Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

“But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” 2 Peter 3:13

Advent is not a passive waiting, but an active preparation for a new heaven and new earth. Like John the Baptist, we must prepare the way of the Lord. In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U.S. Bishops emphasize that we are active co-workers in God's creative plan.

Parish Support

Year to Date 11/27/2020 \$ 613331.88
Year to Date 11/27/2019 \$ 688271.61

Thanks to all those who continue to donate!



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... and for all our sick and homebound.

... and all our families who remain homebound due to virus concerns

Pray for our Parish Community



Join us in welcoming Harry Thompson into our faith by the Sacrament of Baptism.

May this joyful occasion be a special start to knowing that God's love will live in your precious child's heart.

Daily readings (including audio files) are available on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website www.usccb.org.

Mass of the Air Schedule (ASL Interpreted) (www.massoftheair.com): 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the Faith Channel, Inc. (Spectrum channel 19), Louisville, KY. This Mass also is streamed live on the Faith Channel at www.faithtvlive.com. 10:30 a.m. on WHAS-TV (channel 11), Louisville, KY and whas11.com under the “Live Video” tab.

9 a.m. on WBKI-TV (Spectrum Channel 7).

Links to live streaming of Masses at the various parishes throughout the Archdiocese may be found on the Archdiocese of Louisville site www.archlou.org/covid-19.

Mass at SSM will continue to be live streamed on Facebook each Sunday at 10:30am via a link provided at smartyr.org.



Readings for the week of 12/6/2020

Sun: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Mon: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tue: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wed: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thurs: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Sat: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Next Sun: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

From the Desk of Bridget Britt, School Principal

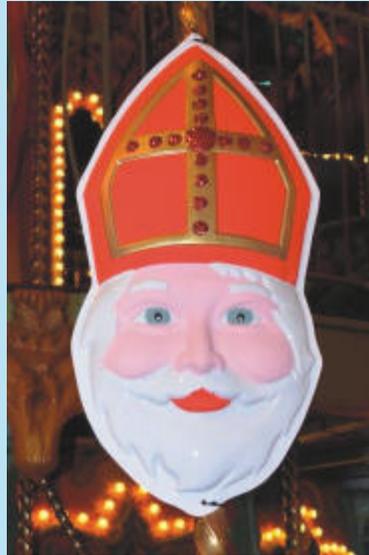
ST. NICHOLAS FEAST DAY: DEC. 6

Jolly Old St. Nicholas evokes a cheerful image of an elderly, bearded man, kindly handing out gifts to children. This St. Nick, or Santa Claus, is a model of generosity for those who see the celebration of our Savior's birth at Christmas as a time for performing acts of charity and goodwill.

Have you thought about what you could do for others this season yet? Could you make cards for a nursing home? Could you take blankets to a shelter? Could you call a friend who needs a phone call?

Let's make sure, even during this difficult time, that we are still thinking of others and giving charity and goodwill to others just like St. Nicholas.

Bridget Britt.



GOSPEL MEDITATION—Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

First Reading: Five hundred years before the birth of Christ, Isaiah prophesied these words of comfort and hope to the Israelites captive in Babylon. What would bring comfort and hope to you in this season of Advent?

Second Reading: Today we hear how Peter challenged those in his day who denied that Christ would return. Peter argued that our human timeline is not God's timeline. How do you reason with people today who deny the fundamentals of our faith?

Gospel: Mark opens his Gospel by presenting the words and activities of John the Baptist in the context of fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy heard in our first reading. Why do you think connecting Isaiah to John the Baptist was important to Mark and his community?

Planned Holiday Mass Schedule

This schedule is subject to change based upon revised COVID restrictions and recommendations.

Please note that church capacity is limited to no more than 60 persons.

The Immaculate Conception
Tuesday December 8
9:00 AM—Live Streaming & in Person

Christmas Eve
Thursday December 24
4:00 PM—Live Streaming Only

Christmas Day
Friday December 25
9:00 AM—Live Streaming & in Person

New Year's Day
Friday January 1st
9:00 AM—Live Streaming & in Person

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

If you would like something included in the church bulletins for any of the following dates, please note the early submission deadlines:

12/20 bulletin—Thu 12/10

12/27 bulletin—Wed. 12/16

1/3/21 bulletin—Mon. 12/21



Saint Vincent DePaul
of SSM Christmas
Event

We invite you to participate in our Christmas Gift Card Program that helps to enrich needy families in our Parish during the Holiday Season.

We request that you buy a gift card in whatever denomination you desire from Kroger, Walmart, Target, Aldi, etc. Please mark the envelope SVDP Gift Card and drop it off in the Parish Office, in the Sunday Collection or mail to SSM/SVDP, 2931 Pindell Ave, Louisville, KY 40217 to be received not later than Monday December 14th.

Thank you in advance & Merry Christmas!

PREPARE

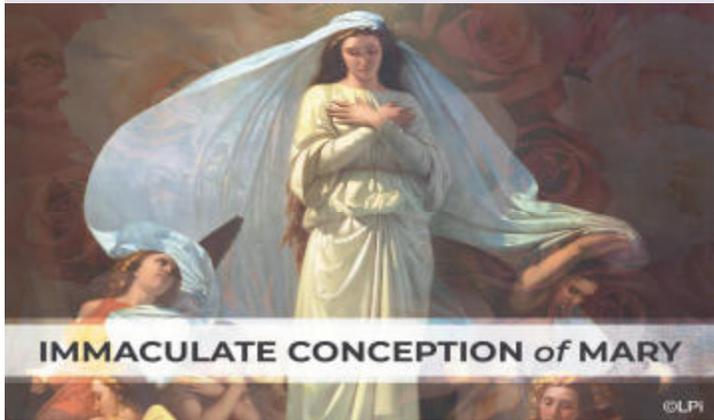
THE WAY OF

THE LORD!



OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF December 6, 2020

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Wednesday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- Friday:** St. Damasus I, Pope
- Saturday:** Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent



If you were given a saint’s name at Baptism, that saint is your patron saint. Countries also have patron saints. Who is the patron saint of the United States?

If you answered, “Mary, the mother of Jesus,” you are correct. In 1846, the bishops of the United States asked Mary to watch over our country and its people in a special way. They also chose one particular title and feast of Mary—her Immaculate Conception.

The title of the Immaculate Conception recognizes Mary’s privilege of coming into the world free from sin. Through the power of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, every human being can be freed from sin at Baptism. Through that same power, Mary was always free from sin, even from that very first moment of life.

On December 8, the Church celebrates this special privilege given to Mary. At the liturgy we thank God for all his blessings he has given to the people of our country. And we can thank Mary for watching over and protecting our people.

Collect prayer from the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:

O God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin prepared a worthy dwelling for your Son, grant, we pray, that as you preserved her from every stain by virtue of the Death of your Son, which you foresaw so through her intercession, we, too, may be cleansed and admitted to your presence. through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

(Excerpts from LoyolaPress.com)

Masses for the Week of 12/7/20 – 12/13/20

Sunday, December 13 -

10:30 am Robbie Barber †

†=deceased

Richard Ringswald †

Parish Calendar—Church and School Offices are open -

You will be met at the door to conduct most business. If there is a need to enter the building, then a mask or face covering will be required as well as social distancing. SSM facilities continue to remain closed to activities and events due to strict cleaning requirements associated with use of any meeting rooms or common spaces. Please contact the Parish Office to request use of any room or facility on campus and we will see what can be worked out.

The SSM Dare to Care Food Pantry continues to operate at this time. In compliance with current distancing requirements, food is distributed out the door without allowing patrons to enter the building. The next food pantry distribution will take place:

Wednesday – 12/9/2020 –

4:00-5:30 pm Dare-to-Care Food Distribution Weiker Rm

Many thanks and much gratitude are extended to Dcn. Steve DaPonte and our food pantry volunteers for this valuable service that they continue to provide to the community at large.



Blessing of the Child in the Womb

Sunday, December 13
at 12 Noon Mass
Cathedral of the Assumption
433 South Fifth Street
Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz
Presiding

All expectant mothers are most
Welcome!

The "Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb" was crafted to support parents awaiting the birth of their child, to encourage parish prayers for – and recognition of – the precious gift of the child in the womb, and to foster respect for human life within society.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Image is Tapestry Visitation, with the two "cutaway" children, c.1410. John the Baptist kneels to Jesus, who blesses him

2020 Retirement Fund for Religious

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in our parish December 13. Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous. .

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