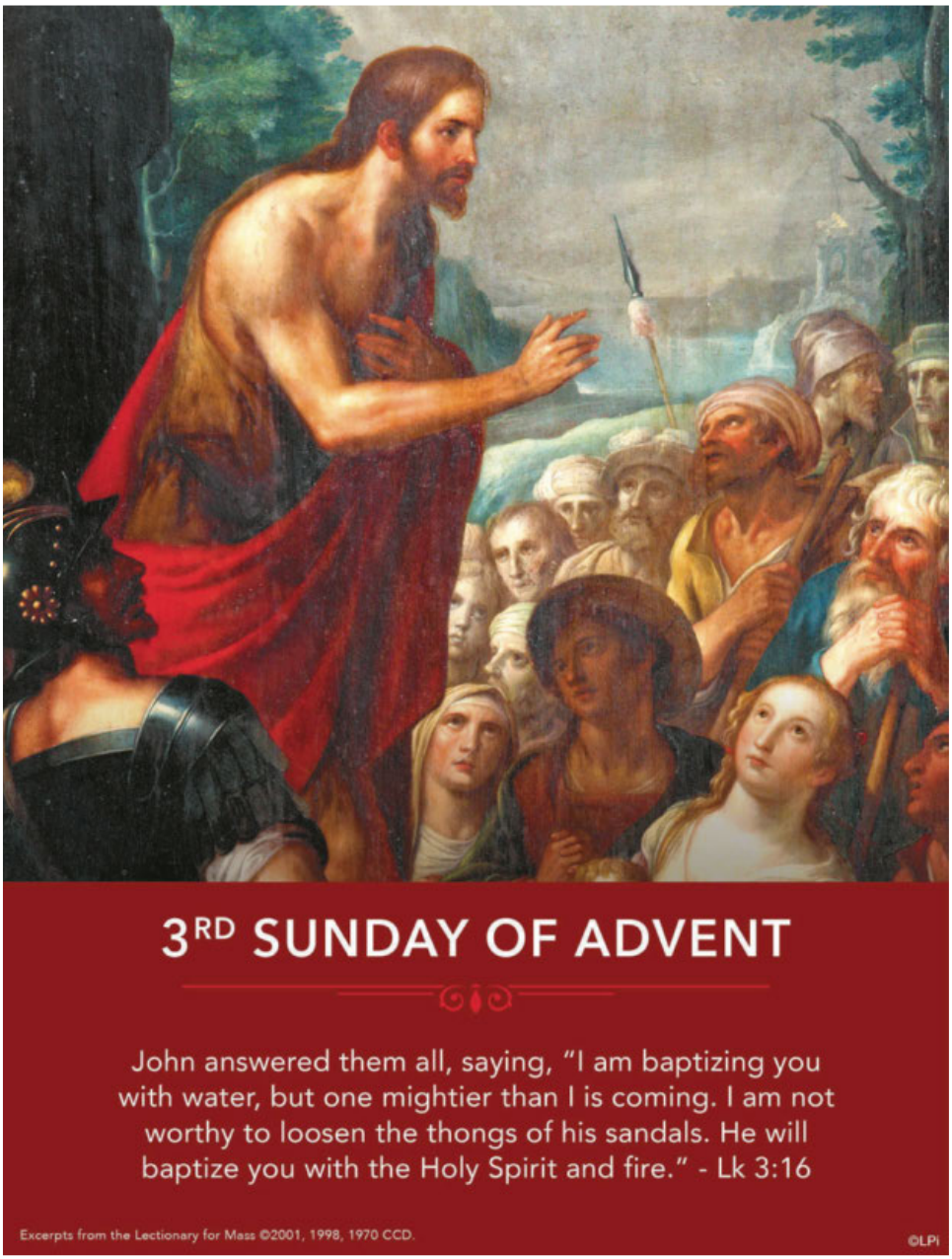
3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

ST. STEPHEN MARTYR

2931 PINDELL AVENUE • LOUISVILLE, KY 40217



www.ssmartyr.org

Parish Office..... 635-5813
School..... 635-7141
Cafeteria..... 635-6895
Daycare & Pre-School..... 635-3505
Activities Center..... 635-3505
St. Vincent de Paul..... 635-4414

Staff

Pastor
Rev. Peter Bucalo
pbucalo@ssmartyr.org

Deacon
Rev. Mr. Ken Roberts, Jr.
kroberts@ssmartyr.org

Senior Deacons
Rev. Mr. Syl Nitzken
Rev. Mr. Steve DaPonte
sdaponte@ssmartyr.org

Director of Music
Stuart Wicke
swicke@ssmartyr.org

Business Manager
Mrs. Celeste Fautz
cfautz@ssmartyr.org

Principal
Mrs. Bridget Britt
bbritt@ssmartyr.org

CRE
Position Vacant
at this time

Pre-School Director
Mrs. Rebecca Jenkins
rjenkins@ssmartyr.org

Parish Council

Pastor, Fr. Peter Bucalo
Chairperson, Patty Norton.....773-6356
Administration/Finance, Ray Brown.648-5667
Parish Life, Patty Norton.....773-6356
Worship, Vacant.....
Recording Secretary, John Mangino.....

Parish Office Hours - 8:30am-4:30pm (Mon-Fri)

Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturday 4:00 pm; Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Weekday: Tuesday—Friday 8:15 am

Holyday: Announced times in bulletin.

Bulletin Deadline

Monday Noon

Sacraments

Baptism: Call parish office for appointment and preparation.

Confession:
Sat. 3:00-3:45 pm
Sun. 7:45-8:15 am, 9:45-10:15 am

Marriage: Please contact priest at least six months in advance.

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:

Question:
What is holy water and how do I explain the reason that it is placed at the entrances of churches to my non-Catholic friends?

Answer:
Holy water is a sacramental, a reminder of the life of the Church expressed and celebrated through the sacraments. God's grace is mediated through word and gesture (the outward signs). This comes to us through Jesus (instituted by Christ) as he entrusts to the Church his saving mission (to give grace). In turn the Church, through the sacraments, shares that grace and mission with us.

On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads to remind us of our origins, humbly created from the dust. But by blessing ourselves with holy water, we are reminded of our destiny! We are baptized sons and daughters of God. This is also a call to conversion, to live more fully our baptismal call to live as disciples of Jesus. We see holy water whenever we renew our baptismal promises. This will occur during the Easter liturgy as well, reminding us that we are indeed on a journey of faith and renewed in Christ. Blessing ourselves with holy water reminds us that we are baptized into a community faith, and always in need of turning from sin and toward God. Holy water is a visible sign of our baptism!

HOPE. LOVE. JOY. PEACE.

St. Vincent DePaul of SSM Christmas Card Tree

On the weekend of Dec. 11/12, we will have the Christmas Card tree in the gathering space for our Homebound and Nursing Home parishioners. We invite you to please take an ornament or two or three and send Christmas cards to the folks on the ornament. Thank you in advance and have a Merry Christmas!

Readings for the week of December 12, 2021

Sun: Zep 3:14-18a/Is12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18
Mon: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tue: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32
Wed: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23
Thurs: Is Is 54:1-10/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b [2a]/Lk 7:24-30
Fri: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Sat: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Sun: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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

"The crowds asked John the Baptist, 'What should we do?' He said to them in reply, 'Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.'" Luke 3:10-11

The answer to the question, "what should we do?" is simple – SHARE. Sharing from the abundances we are given from God is the bottom line for all good stewards.

Parish Support

12/04/2020 - 12/03/2021 = $398,429.77
12/04/2019 - 12/03/2020 = $421,003.23
Thanks to all those who continue to donate!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Cindy Arnold	Doug Heil	Gloria Pfeifer
Patrick Barker	David Hoagland	Terry Phelps
Linda Bogner	Carolyn Howlett	James Price
Brad Bohannon	Victor Hoyos	Patricia Ringswald
Chuck Byrd	Ann Huso	Lillian Saufnauer
Amy Campbell	Janet Jacobi	Phyllis Schultz
Charlie Cecil	Janet Jarboe	Herman Seadler
Marty Elms	Damien Kline	Chuck Steinmetz
Robin Evernham	Kaye Lashley	Joey Sullivan
Trish Feger	Beth Mans	Lisa Swikert
Heather Frazier	Betty McGill	Lydia Turner
Kenneth Gibson	Brendon McKeehan	Tish Wagner
Elaine Goehringer	Diane Modes	Bruce Wallace
Bobbie Gross	Mary Ritz Noonan	Cheryl Westbay
Sr. Loretta Guenther	Ryan Northcutt	Janet White
Rita Elaine Hamilton	Ellie Nunn	Charles J Will Jr.
Steven Head	Sydney Partee	Barbara Yates

Pray for our Parish Community

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

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LITURGICAL LIFE
QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:
The words of the prophet Zephaniah focus on hope for a new beginning of the Lord's presence in their midst. How has the season of Advent thus far brought you spiritual renewal?

Second Reading:
As his letter draws to a close, Paul encourages the Philippians to be a community that rejoices in the Lord. How would you rate your own spiritual happiness?

Gospel Reading:
John the Baptist exhorted the crowds, tax collectors, and soldiers to live a moral and other centered life within the parameters of their day-to-day work. What would this look like for you in your current station in life?

From the Desk of Fr. Peter Bucalo, Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

Friday, November 26th was a busy day.

We began as we usually do, with Mass at 8:15 AM, but unlike most days, we ended with an empty tabernacle, and a quiet, simple procession as we brought the Sacrament of the Eucharist to its temporary lodging in the sacristy. There we placed our Blessed Lord in the small tabernacle made of slate and wood that used to rest in the church, and we lit a candle to remind ourselves that Christ was present, and that we should keep our chatter to a minimum. Then Tim Frankrone and Paul Atcher went to work. A pile of dust and a few hours later the tabernacle was in its new location in "a most worthy place with the greatest honor," as St. Paul the VI wrote in his 1965 encyclical, The Mystery of Faith.

At 6 O'clock that evening, with candles lighted and incense burning we returned the Lord in solemn procession to His proper home, now relocated to a beautiful place near the wall of the sanctuary. Nearly fifty people came to celebrate with sacred songs and Evening Prayer, and as the Catechism of the Catholic Church encourages us, "adoration before the Lord really present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar." (CCC 1183)

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is calling for a "Eucharistic revival." While the specifics will unfold over the next three years, the goal is clear: "To renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist." It has been estimated that only 30% of Catholics believe that Christ is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. That is a tragic figure. It is my great hope that over the course of this revival, that number will dramatically increase.

Again, from the Catechism: "the tabernacle should be located in an especially worthy place in the church…such…that it emphasizes and manifests the truth of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament." (CCC 1379) I believe, as you do, that placing Christ in the center of our lives by placing Him in the center of the church is a good place to start.

Please remember to show reverence to Christ by genuflecting toward the tabernacle as you enter or leave the church, unless of course your knees have turned to popcorn like mine. Then a profound bow will suffice. Please teach your children to genuflect as well. I'm pretty sure their knees can handle it.

Over the next few years I hope to use this space to help foster the "Eucharistic revival" the USCCB is calling for. Let's begin with the words of St. Francis of Assisi: "What wonderful majesty! What stupendous condescension! O sublime humility! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble Himself like this under the form of a little bread, for our salvation."

May God bless you,

Fr. Peter

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve—4:00 pm Mass
Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day—Midnight Mass
Saturday, December 25—Christmas Day—9:00 am Mass
NO 4:00 MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
Sunday, December 26—Sunday– 8:30 am Mass
Sunday, December 26—Sunday–10:30 am Mass

Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration will be held at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays during Advent,

2021 Catholic Services Appeal

The theme of this year's Appeal is from sacred scripture,

Psalm 39:8 – Lord, for What Do I wait?
My Hope Is in You.

These words invite us to hope in the Lord as we faithfully respond to God's call. Your offering to the Catholic Services Appeal will help bring Christ to others in every corner of the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Statistics as of December 3

A total of **$2,880,921** in gifts and pledges have been received, which is **70%** of the Archdiocesan goal. There were **8,019** participating households, which represents **61%** of the total donor participation goal.

SSM Parish Goal: $30,400
SSM Gifts/Pledges = **$32,871 (108%)**
SSM Participation Goal: 135 households
SSM Participation = **144 households (107%)**

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Services Appeal!

Use the link on the home page of the parish web site at WWW.ssmartyr.org to complete and submit a 2021 Stewardship Form or contact the Parish Office at 635-5813 to discuss the various ministry opportunities that are available. There is likely a parish organization that can greatly benefit from your time and your unique talents.

Mark your calendar now! A night featuring trivia, pull tabs, split the pot & fun! Invite your trivia buffs to join your table (must be 18 or over to play) Proceeds benefit 8th grade graduation trip! Questions-contact Amanda Thompson 502-931-0790 or email: amt924@hotmail.com.

Holy Family is planning a Christmas program for Sunday, December 19 at 3:00 pm. The program will include music, readings about the nativity story, and a living nativity presented by the children of the parish. If anyone is interested in participating or attending, please call Jennifer Zoeller at 424-8737 or the Church Office at 459-6066.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF December 12, 2021

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Tuesday: St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 4thSunday of Advent

Liturgical Roles — 12/18/21—12/19/21

Sacristans		**Lectors**	
4:00 pm	Vernon Weickel	4:00 pm	Cathy Thomas
8:30 am	Catie Jones	8:30 am	Jim Sohan
10:30 am	Kim Koenig	10:30 am	Mike Scalise

Holy Communion Ministers		**Ushers**	
4:00 pm	Dcn. Ken Roberts, Jr.	4:00 pm	Ron Weckman
8:30 am	Dcn. Ken Roberts, Jr.	8:30 am	Steve Feldkamp
10:30 am	Dcn. Ken Roberts, Jr.	10:30 am	Carl Lawrence

St. Lucy

A name that means "light," St. Lucy (283 –304) is the patron saint of those blind or suffering with eye trouble. Not much is known about her life, except that she was determined to remain a virgin and thus refused marriage. History tells the story of a frustrated suitor who eventually accused St. Lucy of being a Christian (at crime at the time), and she was executed in Syracuse, Sicily, in the year 304.

Today, we celebrate a number of traditions that incorporate symbolic meaning of St. Lucy as the "bearer" of light in the darkness of winter. This is particularly seen in Scandinavian countries, with their long dark winters. There, a young girl dressed in a white dress and a red sash (as the symbol of martyrdom) carries palms and wears a crown or wreath of candles on her head. In Denmark, Norway and Sweden, girls dressed as Lucy carry rolls and cookies in procession as songs are sung.

Thanks to one and all for your tremendous support of the 2021 PTO Reverse Raffle!

The annual Reverse Raffle is the largest PTO fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from this event help to purchase educational equipment and supplies for the school which in turn helps to reduce the overall cost of tuition. Thank you to the Reverse Raffle Committee and their families headed by Event Coordinator Dani Monks. Thank you also to everyone who was a corporate sponsor, family sponsor, volunteer, donated items, donated time, donated money or simply attended the event.

Preliminary results, pending a final accounting of all expenses, indicate that the 2021 Reverse Raffle net revenues will exceed $60,000.

Congratulations to the following Reverse Raffle big winners:

- 3rd Prize ($500) - Chris & Becky Lotz (498th ticket)
- 2nd Prize ($1,500) – Rusty Eicher (499th ticket)
- 1st Prize ($7,000) -Matt & Bridget Britt (500th ticket)

Masses for the Week of 12/13/21 – 12/19/21

†=deceased

Tuesday, December 14 -
8:15 am Mickey Bancroft †
Wednesday, December 15 -
8:15 am Steve Brown †
Thursday, December 16 -
8:15 am Robbie Barber †
Friday, December 17--
8:15 am R. Stevens †
Saturday, December 18 --
4:00 pm Bernie & Gene Conrad †
Sunday, December 19 --
8:30 am Richard & Janie Becht †
10:30 am Frank Johnson †

Parish Calendar of Events — A Parish Calendar of Events is available on the home page of the ssmartyr.org web site. This online calendar will be updated at the end of each week. All events/activities must appear on the calendar prior to use of any facility on campus. Please call the parish office (635-5813) request addition of your event/activity to the calendar.

Monday — 12/13		
6:30 pm	Men's Rosary	Church
7:00pm	Adult Choir Practice	Church
Tuesday — 12/14		
8:15 am	Mass	Church
8:50-9:15	Rosary	Church
9:30 am	Quilters	SSAC-Mtng Rm #1
3:00 pm	Children's Choir	Church
Wednesday — 12/15		
8:15 am	School Mass	Church
8:50-9:15	Rosary	Church
3:45-5:00 pm	Dare-to-Care Food Distribution	Weiker Rm
6:00-7:00pm	Confession-Eucharistic Adoration	Church
7:30-9:00 pm	Boy Scouts	Marteen Room
Thursday — 12/16		
8:15 am	Mass	Church
8:50-9:15	Rosary	Church
Friday — 12/17		
8:15 am	Mass	Church
8:50-9:15	Rosary	Church
Saturday — 12/18		
3:00 pm	Confession	Reconciliation Room
4:00 pm	Mass	Church
Sunday — 12/19		
7:45 pm	Confession	Reconciliation Room
8:30 am	Mass	Church
9:45 pm	Confession	Reconciliation Room
10:30 am	Mass (ALS Interpreter)	Church

Retirement Fund for Religious

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held at all Masses on December 11-12, 2021. Many senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years with little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your support of this collection provides medications, nursing care, and more.

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