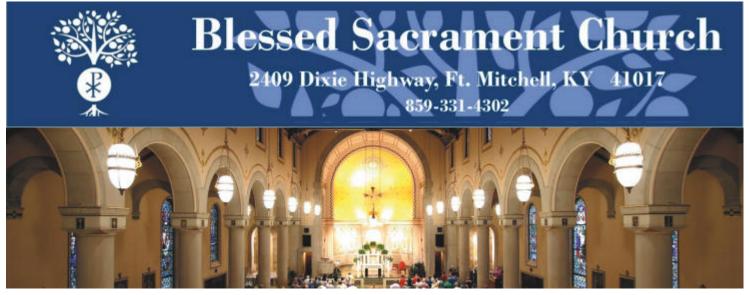
## November 28, 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Saturday Schedule 10:00 a.m. Sunday Masses: Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Weekday Masses: Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m. Monday -Friday : 10:00 a.m. Holy Day Masses: 7:00 p.m. evening before & 6:30 & 10:00 a.m.

#### Parish Office (859) 331-4302 Parish Email parish@bscky.org

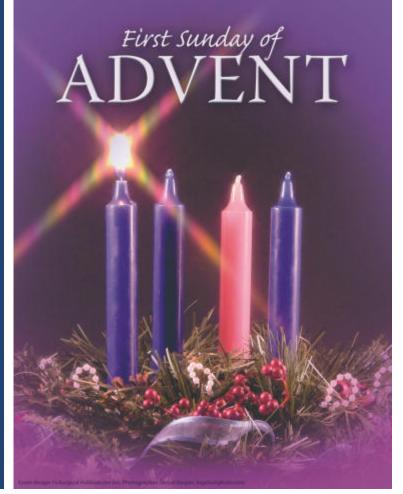
Rev. Damian Hils, Pastor	Ext. 15
Rev. Augustine Aidoo, Parochial Vicar	Ext. 21
Deacon Jim Bayne, Pastoral Associate	Ext. 16
Deacon Jim Fortner, Pastoral Associate	Ext. 41
Matt Spencer, Music Director	Ext. 35
Rick Schwab, Business Manager	Ext. 36
Henry Barczak, Maintenance	Ext. 34
Sarah Gillum, Secretary	Ext. 10
Kathy Woltermann, Secretary	Ext. 11
Carol Hebbeler, Sacristan	859-640-945

#### **Faith Formation Office**

Rosanne Thomas, DRE/Pastoral Assoc.	Ext. 22
Michele Garvey, Assistant	Ext. 33
Mirianna Asman, RCIA	Ext. 37

#### Blessed Sacrament School (859)331-3062

Dan Steffen, Principal	Ext.15
Jen Geiman, Assistant Principal	Ext. 14



Blessed Sacrament Church • 2409 Dixie Hwy. • Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

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#### **MASS INTENTIONS**

Sunday, November 28 9:00 †Dick Roeding 11:00 Parish Monday, November 29 6:30 <sup>†</sup>Joe Seissiger **10:00** †Leonard Baumann **Tuesday, November 30** 6:30 †Hilda Ursic, A.M. **10:00** †Owen A. Kennedy Wednesday, December 1 **6:30** †Marie Nieman <sup>†</sup>Tom Prieshoff 10:0 Thursday, December 2 6:30 <sup>†</sup>Karen Hoppenjans 10:00 Greg Gillum, Jr. Sp. Int. Friday, December 3 6:30 <sup>†</sup>Joe Seissiger **10:00** †Margaret England Muehlenkamp, A.M. Saturday, December 4 **10:00** †Tim Kennedy 4:00 *†*Rose Helen Bowling Sunday, December 5 <sup>†</sup>Paul Radenheimer 9:00 11:00 Parish



STEWARDSHIP OF THE PROMISE: When God

promised to raise up a just shoot from the house of David, that promise was kept alive and handed down by generations of believers. When Mary was told by the angel that she was to be the mother of the Savior, she embraced her role in the promise. When the early disciples were called to follow Jesus, the dropped what they were doing and heeded the summons. Generations that followed handed the good news on to us. Now we are stewards of the promise, the good news, the faith that we profess. A new liturgical year begins today with the first Sunday of Advent. Let us pause and reflect on how well we are stewarding the promise.

#### November Ministry Budget: \$113,500

Actual Contributions Toward Ministry Goal: \$49,378.00 through November 14, 2021 Annual Ministry Budget: \$1,320,000 7/1/21-6/30/22 Actual Contributions Fiscal Year: 7/1/2021-11/14/2021. \$466,682.00 **<u>BAPTISM</u>**: Preparatory classes are required. Please call the office (331-4302) to register.

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Thursday before First Friday, 10:30a.m. & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**MARRIAGE:** Contact the parish at least 6 months ahead. One party must be a parishioner.

<u>COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND:</u> Contact Parish Office, 331-4302

#### **EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION:**

Wednesdays, 10-4 p.m., Rosary & Benediction at 3:30p.m.

**<u>ROSARY</u>**: The rosary is prayed at 9:30 a.m. before every 10 a.m. weekday Mass, unless there is a funeral Mass



#### GIFT OF THE MONTH FOR DECEMBER: <u>HUGS (hats, un-</u> derwear, gloves, & socks).

Please remember the adults and children who have little to protect them from the cold of

winter. Donations go cho in Newport. May helping those who feel

to Hosea House Echo in Newport. *May God bless you for helping those who feel their poverty most at Christmas.* 





#### **DO YOU HAVE AN ADVENT**

**WREATH?** As a child, I remember my family gathered every evening of Advent around our Advent wreath, which was the centerpiece of our dinner table, while we

sang "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" inviting Jesus, the Light of the world, into our lives.

It's easy to buy an Advent wreath, and fun to make one. It's also a beautiful tradition full of symbolism that reminds us to prepare our hearts through penance, prayer, song and joy to welcome Jesus more fully this Christmas.

The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes God's promise of everlasting life to us through Christ. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent, and one candle is lit each Sunday. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice. The pink candle is supposed to remind us of the sky's color just before dawn, and we light it on the third Sunday of Advent to remind us Christ is near!

To learn more about our Catholic faith and its many traditions, contact Mirianna Asman, our RCIA director: masman@bscky.org, 859-331-4302 ext. 37.



**B.S.C.'S S.V.D.P. PANTRY NEEDS** Pantry YOU! Our Saint Vincent de Paul **Needs** pantry is depleted, and the need is espe-

cially great right now. Immediate needs include: SMALL SIZE ONLY PLEASE: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna, Canned Breast of Chicken, Chef Boyardee, Soda Crackers, Toilet Paper and Hand Soap. Thank you for your continued support of the Pantry.



We are looking for extra singers to join the choir and help elevate the Christmas Holiday. We are asking for help at the 10PM Mass on Christmas Eve, and the 11AM Mass on Christmas Day. Singers of all ages and abilities are welcome. The rehearsals for these masses will be on Wednesday December 15, and

Wednesday December 22 at 7PM in the church. If you would like to participate in this short term commitment, please contact me at mspencer@bscky.org.



#### 2023 SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: THE CHURCH WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Pope Francis has called for a worldwide discussion leading up to the next meeting of the Synod of Bishops in 2023 on the topic of SYNODALITY. Synodality is "journeying together" - a way of living out our faith that involves shared responsibility, open and honest dialogue, and discernment with the Holy Spirit in addressing the issues facing our Church today. It is speaking and listening to one another and the Holy Spirit. In what ways does our parish journey together? How well do we do it? Are there people or groups that have been left behind on the journey? How can we speak and listen to them? Parishes, institutions, individuals, and small groups across the diocese will have the opportunity to reflect and respond to these and other questions over the next several months. All are invited and encouraged to participate. Input will be compiled and forwarded on to the national and then international levels to help the Bishops prepare for the 2023 Synod in Rome. Look for more information in parish communications, on social media, the diocesan website covdio.org/synod, or visit www.synod.va/en.html.



A special thanks to parishioner Nancy Fisch-THANKYOU esser for joining Parish Council. We appreciate your Stewardship to the parish.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Stew & Joy Riche Corbin Barnett Larry Bischoff Donna Epplen Donna Cliff Susan Neltner Gordon Quinn Ginny & Charlie Yancey Sean Davis Bill Gerdes Marge O'Connor Joseph Seiter

Erin Woods Phyllis Lunnemann Annie Soldano Lou & Ann Fritz Ralph Carr Pam Bussard Patty Newsom

Also please remember in your prayers all of our parishioners in nursing homes as well as those confined to their homes.



#### BLESSED **SACRAMENT HOLY HOUR**

Parishes are encouraged to continue promoting PRAYER FOR DOBBS up to December 1, 2021.

The Supreme court will hear oral arguments until a decision is handed down. With abortion taking the lives of over 600,000 babies a year in the United States, this Supreme Court case Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization is the greatest opportunity in a generation to create change and overturn Roe vs. Wade. With their decision, the U.S. Supreme Court could affirm that life is a human right and uphold Mississippi's Law.

Fr. Hils has arranged for Blessed Sacrament Parish to hold a holy hour of Eucharistic Adoration for the Dobbs Case on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 from 7pm-8pm. Wednesday follows with the regular schedule of Adoration from after 10:00am Mass to 4:00pm.

The Pro-Life Office has organized a trip to Washington, DC for the Annual March for Life, which will take place on Friday, January 21, 2022.

Included in the trip is round trip airfare, one night's hotel accommodations and ground transportation to and from airport/hotel. Limited seating available. Depart late morning January 20th, return flight evening January 21st. Cost per person for a double occupancy room will be \$412.00. For more information, please contact the Pro-Life office at 859-392-1500.

We also have rooms available for those who would want to provide their own transportation. The Marriott Metro Center is located centrally in downtown Washington DC. Cost of room: \$210.00

There is limited seating on flights and rooms available. Please contact our office as soon as possible if interested. Peggy Piccola at (859) 392-1500, or ppicola@covdio.org

### **1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



# From the Pastor-Fr. Damian Hils

Dear Family,

The first Sunday of Advent is the beginning of a new year for a follower of Jesus Christ. I pray that this coming year will be a better one than the last. Let us all pray that in the coming twelve months, we will grow in love and mercy.

Since we are starting a new year, I thought I might offer some reflections about my first year and a half here.

We have all lived through this miasma of uncertainty and suffering because of a virus popularly called Covid. Some people suffered greatly during this time. I am thinking of those who died because they could not breathe anymore. I am thinking of the elderly in nursing homes who were quarantined without their consent. I am thinking of children who were not allowed to see their parents in such facilities. It has been an awful time for so many. The inconvenience of wearing a mask is nothing in comparison - whether they work or not.

I am writing today about the state of our parish in this new Covid reality we find ourselves in.

Let's start with attendance at Mass. Here are the statistics:

Mass attendance: in 2019: 4006 in 2020: 1714 in 2021: 2552

Basically we are down a little more than a third in Sunday attendance or 37% to be more exact.

With a decrease in attendance there has also been a decrease in offertory. We are down about 8% in the Sunday Collection.

The school is also off in enrollment. We slipped below 500 students last year. This decline is part of a ten year trend. A decade ago our enrollment was at 618 students.

Last year we offered 47 funerals here. We mourn the loss of these parishioners. In days past, they helped to hold the parish together.

All of these stats speak of decline. I refuse to go along with this narrative of declination for Blessed Sacrament. I am going to rebuild. Please join me in this effort.

Currently, I am looking at establishing a pre-school and building a second gymnasium. Schools are judged these days in the public forum not just on academics, but also in terms of facilities. It's time. I will give you more details when I have them. I will be meeting with the Diocesan Building Commission on tomorrow to discuss these matters, and I will keep you posted as to the results.

In the meantime, I need your help to reestablish our parish for the next 100 years.

First of all, if you can afford to increase your Sunday contribution, I would be grateful.

Secondly, we need help with volunteers for the Masses we offer here.

1. Please consider being a sacristy helper. This means coming early before Mass and setting up and taking down. And there are little things as well, like polishing the brass caps on top of the candles, some light ironing, washing the servers white albs, and dusting.

2. Servers. We need more altar boys and girls to step up and serve the Mass. This is an act of charity for the community. It is also a chance to experience the Mass in a profound and intimate way. Personally, speaking as a priest, I learned how to say Mass as a boy when I served here for Msgr. Grosser, Fr. Broering, and Fr. DeLange.

3. We need more lectors. It is a privilege to read the Bible before others because the words we use are not our own. The words used have been given to us by the Holy Spirit.

4. Greeters and ushers. This is a beautiful ministry to extend to everyone who crosses the threshold of the church the love of God for them. It is a great comfort to people who, upon arriving, are given a witness of Christ's love by your ministry.

Anyway, this is a lot for a first of the year letter. Next week, I will tell you about the meeting which I have tomorrow.

All God's Blessings then,

Fr. Damian



# Sack time again!

Santa Sacks are at the doors. They must be returned to the church vestibules on **December** 4<sup>th</sup> & **December 5th.** Each sack is labeled with the age & gender of a given child. Instructions for filling the bag with <u>small</u> Christmas gifts are inside each sack.

Santa will give the Sacks to needy children of Jackson Co., KY. at the annual Christmas Pageant and Party at St. Paul Catholic Mission in McKee. Fort Mitchell Merry Business Walk is November 28, 5:30–8 p.m.



Light up Ft. Mitchell has a new name and a new starting point— **Blessed Sacrament Church**! We will have a booth with Bethlehem photo background, cookies, and more to welcome all from the surrounding community.



Let us give thanks for all God's blessings by blessing others. Ribbon Giving Trees will be on the slat boards near the church doors Thanksgiving weekend. Please return your gifts, tags attached, to the church by December 12th or drop them off in the undercroft on December 12th,

10 a.m.—1 p.m.



#### Blessed Sacrament Community,

We hope that everyone had a joyful and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. There is so much for our school community to be thankful for this year. Topping that list is the opportunity to return to a sense of normalcy and routine within the school. While things still aren't 100% back to pre-pandemic norms, they grow closer each day and allow us to continue our mission of remaining a faith-centered, Blue Ribbon school. We are also so thankful for each of your ongoing prayers and support. Without our strong parish community at our back, we would not be the same top-tier school. Thank you.

Today is the first day of Advent. We are excited to enter into this season of preparation as we move closer to Christmas. We appreciate your continued prayers.

God Bless,

Mr. Dan Steffen Principal, Blessed Sacrament School

We are so thankful for all of you in the Blessed Sacrament Community, and we hope you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday weekend surrounded by family and friends!

## **Upcoming Events**

12/2	Advent Prayer Service
12/2	4th Grade "Ellis Island Day"
12/6-7	BSS Santa Shop
12/8	NO SCHOOL - Feast of the
	Immaculate Conception
12/9	First Reconciliation
12/16	Christmas Concert (grades K-6)
12/18-1/2	NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

#### SUPPORT BLESSED SACRAMENT SCHOOL WHILE YOU'RE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING!

Visit bssky.org and find information under the "Community Rewards" tab!



#### Senior Resource Center

Are you or someone you know trying to navigate through the maze of Senior Resources? Often it is difficult even to know where to start or what questions to ask. St. Charles Community realizes how difficult it can be for seniors to get the help they need and as a result have expanded their Senior Resources Program into Latonia. We are open to all seniors and their families, free of charge. If you have any questions regarding senior care, levels of care, Medicaid, Medicare, senior living options, adaptive equipment etc....you can simply stop in or call the Senior Resource Center. Ask for Margie or Ashely @(859)697-1911 Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm. 3705 Winston Ave., Covington, Ky. 41015

#### MADONNA HOUSE OF NORTHERN KENTUCKY:

Hello! We are losing our amazing Goals Counselor and need help finding a new one! We are looking for a very part time person to meet with residents weekly to work on long term goals as well as short term goals. This person should have some experience with counseling, social work, or psychology, etc. The position is about 5-8 hours a week. You can easily fit it into your other schedules with full time jobs, family, etc., as we are very flexible! If you or someone you know is interested please send your resume to: ad-

min@madonnahousenky.org. Please feel free to share with anyone that you feel may be interested! Madonna House is a great place to work and to serve others in need!



Do you have family or a friend in jail or Catholic prison?

Charities Are you looking for a safe, welcoming Discose of Covington community where you will be accepted without judgement?

Join us the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 PM. at Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Latonia, KY 41015. Questions contact Dave Capella at dcapella@covingtoncharities.org or 859-581-8974 ext 117



For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com 2-D-4-2

