

† **PARISH STAFF** †

Pastor.....Fr. John R. Vaughan (john.vaughan@pastoral.org)
 Associate Pastor.....Fr. Joshua A. McCarty (josh.mccarty@pastoral.org)
 Director of Faith Formation Sr. Therese Francis Walker, M.S.B.T.
 (therese.walker@pastoral.org)
 Business ManagerLarry Lyon(larry.lyon@pastoral.org)
 Pastoral Associate (*Blessed Sacrament Chapel*)..... Veronica Wilhite

Director of Music..... Michael E. Conley(mike.conley@pastoral.org)
 Cathedral Preschool Pam Weafer(pam.weafer@pastoral.org)
 Office Assistant Ruth Ann Carrico(ruthann.carrico@pastoral.org)
 Support Staff Joe Beard
 Youth MinistryFr. Joshua McCarty(josh.mccarty@pastoral.org)
 Seminarian Intern Uwem Enoch (uwemwezo1208@gmail.com)

† **PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL** †

Tom Ed Booth, Chair.....926-6496
 Mike Sullivan, Vice-chair926-9187
 Denise Payne, Secretary.....926-3033
 Michael Baker.....686-0010
 Matt Constant.....926-6526

Joyce Gruenewald.....
 Peggy Howard.....683-8202
 Todd Johnson.....926-0051
 Mary Hilda McFarland.....683-7732
 Allison Nall.....926-6721

Ray Purk.....691-0883
 Rita Ward684-3494
 Stephen H. Wathen.....926-9658

† **PARISH MINISTRIES and ORGANIZATIONS** †

LITURGY & WORSHIP

Worship Committee Michael E. Conley 683-6525
 Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ministers of Hospitality Michael E. Conley 683-6525
 Altar Servers Eddie O'Bryan 684-5872
 Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound Rose Ann Payne 683-5949
 Children's Liturgy of the Word Sr. Therese Francis 683-6525
 Vocation Prayer Michael E. Conley 683-6525
 Altar Society Bettye Aull 315-6465
 Church Cleaning Claudine Blandford 926-2927
 Music Ministries Michael E. Conley 683-6525

EDUCATION

Education Committee Christine Lowe 926-0605
 Christian Initiation Sr. Therese Francis 683-6525
 Faith Formation Sr. Therese Francis 683-6525
 (K-8)
 Faith Formation Sr. Therese Francis 683-6525
 Children / Adults
 Sunday Scripture Sr. Therese Francis 683-6525
 Sharing Ken Heichelbech 685-2391
 Rose Ann Payne 683-5949
 Sponsor Couples Fr. John Vaughan 683-6525
 School Board Rep Mel Windle 926-4601

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Social Concerns Cmt Cindy Bornander 685-7183
 St. Vincent de Paul Ignatius Payne 926-9270
 (Chuck)
 Giving Tree Lupe Ellis 685-0990
 Unemployment Support Group Vicky Connor 683-0147

COMMUNITY and FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Com/Fam Enrich Elaine Thomas 903-7663
 Cmt MaryHilda McFarland 683-7732
 Parish Newsletter Lisa Kyle 685-2446
 Lois Rutigliano 683-4875
 Parish Photographer Dottie Riney 684-6445
 Parish Outreach-Cards Maggie Riney 684-6445

Hospital Outreach Helen Miles 684-3636
 Funeral Meal Guild Chairperson needed
 Bereavement Support Marianna Robinson 926-3032
 Cathedral Club 50 Committee 684-3716
 926-2811

ADMINISTRATION

Welcoming Cmt Peggy Clark 771-4158
 Stewardship Cmt Larry Lyon 683-6525
 Finance Cmt Mel Windle 926-4601
 Office Assistant Ruth Ann Carrico 683-6525
 Buildings & Grounds Joe Beard 683-6525

† **CATHOLIC SCHOOLS** †

K-3 Campus684-7583 Middle School683-0480
 4-6 Campus.....683-6989 High School684-3215



For nationwide Mass times and locations: call Mass Times at 1-410-676-6000 or visit www.Masstimes.org.

Visit our website: www.ststephencathedral.org. The bulletin is posted weekly after 5:00PM Friday.

† **WELCOME** †

We are grateful you chose to worship with us today. We invite you not only to worship with us at Mass, but to join us in the many ministries that are needed to spread the good news of the Gospel. Come join us!

† **FROM THE EDITOR** †

Bulletin announcements must be submitted in writing by 9:00AM Monday; they should run no more than two weeks consecutively, whether they be a flyer or an article. Deadline is firm. Articles over 150 words must be submitted as a copy-ready flyer. Flyers need prior approval and are published on a first-come, first-published basis.

† CHRISTIAN INITIATION †

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children is a process by which we share our Catholic way of life. The process begins at the initial contact with us. For more information, please call 683-6525.

† CHILDCARE †

Childcare is provided for the 9:00AM Sunday Mass. Contact Linda Ivey, 683-0170, for more information.

† MINISTRY to the SICK †

Hospital & Nursing Home...Please notify the Parish Office upon admission of a family member into any hospital or nursing home.

Anointing of the Sick...Any parishioner who is ill may request the anointing by calling the Office. Anointing of the Sick is celebrated communally every six months.

Communion...Any homebound parishioner wishing to receive Communion is asked to call the Parish Office at 683-6525.

† LITURGICAL APPOINTMENTS for DECEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 13, 2009 †
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

5:00PM MASS

Altar Servers.....*Hope Johnson, Luke Riney*
Lectors..... *Leah McCarty, Máire McCormick*
Min. Brd *Rebecca Wathen, Chris Warren, Vickie Warren*
Min. Cup *Larry Lyon, Gene Lyon, Margaret Mills, Sr. Monica Seaton*
Min. Hosp. *Helen Miles, Rachel Mattingly, Louis Byrne, Debra Byrne,*
Doug Hayden, Cheryl Hayden
Voc. Min *Mary Lou Green Family*

7:00AM MASS

Altar Server.....*John Kirby*
Lectors.....*Rita Roberson, Peggy Howard*
Min. Brd*Lottie Miller*
Min. Cup*Glenn E. Thompson, Lorraine McFarland*
Min. Hosp.....*LaWanna Brand, Dennis Weafer, Norman Froehlich,*
Volunteers
Voc. Min*Frank and Skippy Hayden*

9:00AM MASS

Children Lit.....*Beth Steele, Wren Osborne*
Altar Servers.....*Adam Hayden, Mary Keyton Clemens*
Lectors*Dick Murphy, Donna Murphy*
Min. Brd.....*Pat or Suzanne Padgett, John McNulty, Kim Lewis*
Min. Cup*Jill Leigh, Sharlene Hatfield, Mary Helen Nash,*
Lindsey Alvey
Min. Hosp.....*Chris Purk, Ray Purk, Barry Hearth,*
David Moseley, Janie Moseley, Jordyn Moseley

Voc. Min *Joe and Felicity Polio Family*

11:00AM MASS

Altar Servers.....*Lucy Kurtz, George Kurtz*
Lectors*Meghan Payne, Sarah Payne*
Min. Brd.....*Cecilia Yates, Paulo Martins, Joan Perry*
Min. Cup*Tom Payne, Amy Payne, Charlie Shoulta, Will Payne*
Min. Hosp.....*Chuck Payne, Bruce Galloway, Bradley Fulks,*
Gene Higdon, Barbara Hart, Brian Behnke
Voc. Min *Rita Ward*

† PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE †

Dear Parishioners,

In our last newsletter, *The Parishioner*, I spoke of our serious obligation to come to Mass on Sundays. Since that time we have received the results of the Mass count throughout the diocese. On the three Sunday's we averaged 48.2% attendance. Where are the other 51.8% of our folks? Several parishes in town had a higher percentage of attendance but nothing to really brag about. The average among the Owensboro city parishes was 61.7%. Surely none of us thinks this is satisfactory.

Please take advantage of the various Advent materials available at the Church entrances. There is something there for everyone. The US bishops have a special Advent link on their webpage that you might find helpful. Check it out at <http://www.usccb.org/advent>.

I am very grateful to the fourteen people who came to the orientation meeting for Parish Pastoral Council nominees last week. The names of those who are willing to serve our community as members of the Council are listed elsewhere in the bulletin. We are praying for them and will select four of them for Council membership in a couple of weeks.

The health-care reform debate continues. Speaking for the U.S. Conference of Bishops, the chairmen of three different committees have stated that the health reform legislation now before the Senate is "an enormous disappointment, creating new and completely unacceptable federal policy that endangers human life and rights of conscience" because it does not meet the moral criteria outlined by the bishops, especially on the use of federal funds to pay for abortions. Please be attentive to this debate and convey your concerns to our two senators in Washington.

Don't forget that Tuesday is a Holyday of Opportunity (a.k.a. **Obligation**). Under her title as *The Immaculate Conception*, the Blessed Mother is the patroness of the United States, so this is a very special feast day for us. There are numerous options for Mass, both here and at Blessed Sacrament.

Love, Fr. John



Mass Intentions for the week

	7:00AM	12:05PM
Mon	Chris Redd	Tom Wilkerson
12/07-6:00PM	Rosalie Brady	12/8-6:00PM Ken Thomas
Tues	Lillian Calhoun Fam	People of the Parish
Wed	Mary Frances Johnson	Mildred M. Goetz, Dec.
Thurs	Mary Boehman	Cindy Thompson
Fri	John/Ann Wunder Fam	Margaret Scherm
Sat	Mary Ruth Danhauer	O. Michael Hayden

Sunday, December 13

Sat 5:00PM	Ondina de Vergara
Sun 7:00AM	Paul Meisenhelder
9:00AM	People of the Parish
11:00AM	John Russell Johnson

EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION



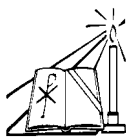
“The world is not something indifferent, raw material to be utilized simply as we see fit. Rather, it is part of God’s good plan, in which all of us are called to be sons and daughters in the one Son of God, Jesus Christ (cf. Eph 1:4-12).

“The justified concern about threats to the environment present in so many parts of the world is reinforced by Christian hope, which commits us to working responsibly for the protection of creation. The relationship between the Eucharist and the cosmos helps us to see the unity of God’s plan and to grasp the profound relationship between creation and the ‘new creation’ inaugurated in the resurrection of Christ, the new Adam. Even now we take part in that new creation by virtue of our Baptism (cf. Col 2:12ff.). Our Christian life, nourished by the Eucharist, gives us a glimpse of that new world – new heavens and a new earth – where the new Jerusalem comes down from heaven, from God, ‘prepared as a bride adorned for her husband’ (Rev 21:2).

*Pope Benedict XVI, “Sacramentum Caritatis,” February 22, 2007
Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service*

A VOCATION VISTA

Hope encourages reason and gives it the strength to direct the will. It is already present in faith, indeed it is called forth by faith. Charity in truth feeds on hope and, at the same time, manifests it. As the absolutely gratuitous gift of God, hope bursts into our lives as something not due to us, something that transcends every law of justice. Gift by its nature goes beyond merit, its rule is that of superabundance.



Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service

The Week Ahead

SUNDAY, December 6—SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM; PSS: II

Donut Sunday

Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:00AM

Sunday Sharing, Undercroft, 9:45AM

Faith Formation, Undercroft, 10:10AM

Mass in Spanish, SS Joseph & Paul, Noon

Recitation of the Rosary, Church, 3:45PM

Confirmation Class, Undercroft, 4:30PM

Advent Evening Prayer, Church, 6:00PM

Photos, Diamond Lake, 6:30-8:30PM

MONDAY, December 7—St. Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor

Daily Mass at 7:00AM & 12:05PM

Holy Day Vigil Mass, Church, 6:00PM

Baptism Prep, Office, 6:30PM

TUESDAY, December 8—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SOLEMNITY

Holy Day Mass at 7:00AM, 12:05PM AND 6:00PM

OFFICE CLOSED

Social Concerns Cmte, Office, 6:30PM

WEDNESDAY, December 9—Advent Weekday; St. Juan Diego, Hermit

Daily Mass at 7:00AM & 12:05PM

Book of Sirach Scripture Study, Media Ctr, 10:30AM

Choir (Adult), Church, 6:00PM

Inquiry Session, Office, 6:00PM

THURSDAY, December 10—Advent Weekday

Daily Mass at 7:00AM & 12:05PM

Sunday Scripture Sharing, Office, 10:30AM

Parish Council, Undercroft, 6:00PM

Sunday Scripture Sharing, Media Ctr, 7:00PM

Catholic Men’s Fellowship, Undercroft, 8:00PM

FRIDAY, December 11—Advent Weekday; St. Damasus I, Pope

Daily Mass at 7:00AM & 12:05PM

SATURDAY, December 12—OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Daily Mass at 7:00AM & 12:05PM

Prayer Group, Office, 8:30AM

Confessions, Church, 9:00—11:00AM

Evening Mass for Sunday, Church, 5:00PM

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SUNDAY, December 13—THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM; PSS: III

Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:00AM

Sunday Sharing, Undercroft, 9:45AM

Faith Formation, Undercroft, 10:10AM

Mass in Spanish, SS Joseph & Paul, Noon

Recitation of the Rosary, Church, 3:45PM

Advent Evening Prayer and Adoration, Church, 6:00PM

Photos, Church, 6:00-8:30PM



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE
Living and Giving Gratefully

This Week's Stewardship Moment

Generosity, authentic generosity is born out of an attitude of gratitude. How generous are you with your time? Advent is a time of preparation. A generous portion of our time given to prayer and to the service of others is a good way to make Christ's presence among us known. Stewardship is living generously. Thank you for your generosity this past year.

**Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary
(Regular Sunday Offertory)**

In gratitude for the gifts we have received from God, parishioners and visitors made a joyful return to the Lord of \$22,447.96 in the Sunday Offertories for the Weekends of November 21 and 22 and November 28 and 29, which included \$118.20 from "Kids Care." Our parish received an additional \$3,000.00 in Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) on November 30.

Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (7/1/09 – 11/29/09)

Goal for Fiscal Year-to-Date:	\$345,000.00
Amount Donated:	\$340,408.93
Amount Short of Needed Goal:	\$ 4,591.07

Thanks for Living and Giving Gratefully!

"Kids Care" Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 1,240.92
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**Some of the Gifts from the Other Half
of our Stewardship**

Diocesan/Other Collections	Nov. 21-22 & 28-29	Total
"St. Stephen Cathedral Restoration & Renewal"	\$18,854.42	\$895,296.86
Maintenance & Repairs Fund	\$ 12.00	\$ 3,850.00
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 576.00	\$ 652.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 130.00	\$ 165.00
Diocesan Good Works	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
Retired Religious	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,493.00
KY League of Educational Alternatives	\$ 20.00	\$ 526.00

Please Pray For All The Sick

Mary Kay Adams	Carrie Grant	Bill/Geraldine Payne
Lois Aud	Dwayne Hagan	David Payne
John Aud	George Hagan	Lorraine Payne
Richard Aud	Ruth Hagan	Wanda Payne
Betty Aull	Bryce Hancock	Ed/Grace Pickett
Donald Axley	Janet Haynes	Martha Poole
Alice Bagot	Sylvia Heflin	Shirley Poole
Joe Beard	Joe Hendricks	Theresa Ray
Catherine Beaven	Beverly Heppler	Margaret W. Roberts
Mike Bogdan	Betty Houston	Martha Jo Ross
Sam Booth	Betty Howard	Joe Rudy
Ann Bresler	Jennie Howard	Betty Sapp
Nancy Brey	Mary Hudson	Maurice Schaefer
Opal Brown	Barbara Huff	Melba Schemmel
Don Brown	Mary Hudson	Alberta Schrecker
Eric Brown	Elsie Jarboe	Doris Schwartz
Jean Carpenter	Eddie Jaskolski	Charles M. Shoemaker
Ann Cecil	Colene Jennings	Mary Ruth Shoemaker
Bob Cecil	Lou Jones	Fred Sikes
Gloria Cecil	Zachary Judd	Marie Simmons
Dennis Cecil	Shelby Keeny	Iona Simon
Rose T. Cecil	James Kelly	Roger Simon
Willie Cecil	Anna Klein	Dorothy Sims
Cliff Clark	Betty Klein	Martha Sims
Mildred Clark	Bill Knott	Fred Smith
Julie Clouse	Viola Kruta	Laura Abel Smith
David Condra	Phillip Loehr	Helen Staples
Betty Coomes	Patsy Logsdon	Mary Taylor
Mary S Coomes	Henry Luckett	Louise Thompson
Thomas Coomes	Larry P. Lyons	David/Bern Tooley
James Crisp	Margaret Mattingly	Beverly Velotta
John Crowe	Jeb Medley	Ondina Vergara
Patrick Cureton	Catherine Mehlbauer	Bill Walker
Charles Danhauer	Martin Millay	Dianne Walsh
Daniel Dawson	Cleo Miller	Bob Weikel
Donna Dickman	Frank Molnar	Joan Wells
Jerry/Dorothy Draeger	Randy Montgomery	Ed Welsh
Harbin Emmick	Joan Moss	Larry Whittaker
Wilma Fenwick	Sue Mudd	Aloysius Williams
Margaret Ferguson	Nancy Murphy	Vicki Wink
Lucille Fischer	Frances O'Bryan	Beverly Wood
Dick/Chris Flaherty	James O'Bryan	John W. Wright
Sherry Fulkerson	Joseph O'Bryan	John Yates
Amy Fulks	Mary O'Harrow	Mike Yates
Helen Galloway	Judy Oelze	Mary Josephine Young
Becky Goetz	Joann Ogle	Ruth Zachery
Gail Goetz	Shirley Oliver	
Hallie Graham	Mike Osborne	

• Names in bold print are those currently in the hospital.

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES

Carmel Home-Dora Peak, Virginia Carrico, Mary C. Kelley, Leon Keller, Mary Jane Yates, Gladys Thompson, Edna Kavolus, Bob Brown, Margaret Roberts, Ray Coomes, Lucille Tong, Margaret Tyler, Martha Sims, Rosalia McPherson. **Fern Terra**-Janie Jackson, Lorraine Payne. **Owensboro Place**-Charles B. Payne, Mary Bopp. **Hillcrest**-Susan Ward, Jim O'Bryan, Bertha Horrell. **Wellington Parc**-Mary Guinn, Marie Richardson, Betty Crowder. **Heritage Park**-Albert Bellew, Marie Simmons. **Bishop Soenneker**-Aloysius Williams, Cecil Barnett, Robert Danhauer, Nancy Brey; Freddie Payne. **Bon Harbor**-Betty Wimsatt, Dorothy Lanham, Hugh Riney. **Rosedale**-Ursula Coogan; **Hermitage**-Daniel Dawson, Rose T. Cecil, Bobby Ford.

THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS



The priest, in his priestly acting, visibly expresses the presence and the action of Christ the head as he sanctifies and forms the Church distinct from himself, but united to her spouse and drawing life from him. He becomes a sign of the presence and of the action of Christ the head not only with his ministerial actions, but also with his very person. He is a permanent reminder to the Church of the promise of her Lord: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the world."

Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service

EPIPHANY DISCERNMENT RETREAT



Like the Wise Men, each of us seeks the Spiritual North Star and looks for signs from God to help us know His Will and our path. In this "Year for Priests," the Office of Vocations invites young men of the Diocese of Owensboro, ages 17-30, to participate in a discernment retreat at Saint Meinrad Seminary during Epiphany Weekend of January 1-3. The retreat, led by seminarians and priests, will provide an opportunity for young men interested in the priesthood and in being formed as men in Christ to experience seminary life first-hand, and to explore the who, what, where, when, and why of a vocation to the Roman Catholic Priesthood. Please register by December 29. For a brochure and/or to registration contact the Office of Vocations at 270-683-1545, or email Father Andy Garner at fr.andy.garner@pastoral.org, or email Tami Schneider at tami.schneider@pastoral.org.

PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED



Please pray for those who have recently died, especially *Mary Ruth Danhauer*, wife of *Charles Danhauer* and aunt of *Joe Connor* and *Kathleen Johnson*; *Ondina de Vergara*, mother of *Lupe Ellis*; and *Christina Morgan*, mother of *Thelma Hagerman*.

Pray, also, for those who are in the process of dying. May the souls of all our beloved dead rest in God's peace and love.

(Please call the office when there is a death in your family.)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Is 40:25-31; Mt 11:28-30
Thursday:	Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15
Friday:	Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47 or any readings from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
Sunday:	Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR PARISH MEMBERS

- 12/6 Hannah Booth, Diana Dex, Norman Gentry Sr., Molly Greenwell, John Hein, George Kurtz, Mark Osborne, Michael Polio, Dorothy Simmons
- 12/7 Susan Augenstein, Bob Berry, Randy Clemens, Don Lacy
- 12/8: Joseph Bender, Steven Bratcher, Virginia Carrico, Chris Flaherty, Stacy Hendricks, Bob Mahoney, Marion McCarthy, Wilma Stallings, Caitlin Sullivan, Ron Sullivan
- 12/9: Dudley Cooper, May Lou Haycraft, Chloe Murphy, Jo Ann Roberts
- 12/10: Susan C. Cecil, Dennis Connelly, Justin Gentry, Jessica Walker
- 12/11: Virginia Hawkins, Pete Mattingly, Zachariah McCarthy, Lauren Rickard, Katie Riney
- 12/12: Nancy Greenwell, Donna Murphy, Ellen Wright.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Our parish is trying to reduce its mailing expenses. Please send an email to larry.lyon@pastoral.org with "Constant Contact" as the subject. If you have already given us your email address, thank you.



"FULL OF GRACE"

"The Immaculate Virgin reminds every human being, whatever his situation, that *God loves him personally*, that he desires only his good and follows him constantly with a plan

of grace and mercy, which culminated in Christ's redemptive sacrifice.

"What happened to Mary turns our attention to Jesus Christ, the only Mediator of salvation, and helps us to see life as a loving plan with which we must cooperate responsibly. Mary is not only a model of the call, but also of the response. Indeed, she said 'yes' to God at the beginning and at every successive moment of her life, fully complying with his will, even when she found it obscure and hard to accept."

John Paul II, "Angelus," December 8, 1999
 Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

The King's Kids Choir is inviting children, ages 8-15, to join them in forming a choir to sing at the Vigil Mass on December 24, at 5:00PM. We are rehearsing on Sundays following the 11:00AM Mass. To keep the children's choir going, we are in need of many more children to offer up their voices in the service of the Lord and his people. Please consider joining for this Christmas event.

PRAYER INVITATION



Permanent Adorer positions are open at the Carmel Home for adoration on Wednesdays, 2:00–3:00AM and 3:00–4:00AM; Saturdays: 1:00–2:00AM and 2:00–3:00AM; Sundays: 1:00–2:00AM. Sub-

Adorers are also needed for Eucharistic adoration hours: Midnight to 5:00AM. Call Marti Castlen at 929-5839.

WORD OF LIFE



Chastity is the joyous affirmation of someone who knows how to live self-giving, free from any form of self-centered slavery. This presupposes that the person has learnt how to accept other people, to relate with them, while respecting their dignity in diversity. The chaste person is not self-centered, not involved in selfish relationships with other people. Chastity makes the personality harmonious. It matures it and fills it with inner peace.

GIVING TREE



Today, when we are all experiencing financial concern and distress, we are also called to be mindful of those whose hardships are so much greater than our own. The Giving Tree gives us an opportunity to recognize and assist Christ in our needy brothers and sisters and to express our gratitude for the gifts He has so abundantly showered upon us. Let us emulate the generosity of God, which cannot be outdone. Our "stretching" will be rewarded!

Please take an ornament from the Giving Tree and return the gift with the ornament attached to it by December 13. Please leave store tags and sale receipts attached to the item, so that exchanges may be made when necessary.

Please note: If your ornament suggests a gift card, please bring the card to the office or put it in the collection basket. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship is a Way of Life

November was Stewardship Month at St. Stephen Cathedral. Each family was asked to prayerfully consider their commitment of service and support to St. Stephen Cathedral Parish by completing and returning their Time, Talent and Treasure commitment form for 2010. To date, 293 families have returned their forms (44 % response). This form is absolutely essential for all parish planning for the coming year. If you haven't returned your form, please take a moment now to complete the form. Or call the parish office (683-6525) and complete it over the phone. Thank you to those who have returned their forms.

SUNDAY EVENING, 6:00-8:00PM

Ststephencathedralyouth.blogspot.com



MOTHER OF CHRIST, THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST

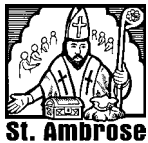
The Diocesan Marian Conference will be held Saturday, December 12, at Blessed Mother Catholic Church Family Life Center. Registration begins at 7:30AM; speakers begin at 8:00AM. Speakers include Patty Schneier from the Archdiocese of St. Louis; Fr. Ben Luther; Fr. Bruce Fogle; Fr. Gerald Baker; Fr. Richard Cash; Fr. Bob Drury; and Fr. Bill Casey and Fr. Tom Sullivan from the Fathers of Mercy. Fee is \$20; lunch is \$5. To register, please contact Heather Clemens at 683-1570 or Tracey Danzer at 691-0027. Fees may be mailed to Heather Clemens at 2159 Sheffield Court, Owensboro, KY 42301.

BE AMONG THE FIRST TO KNOW

Be among the first to know when a new bishop is named for the Diocese of Owensboro. Visit the diocesan website at www.rcdok.org and sign up to receive an email notification.

ST. BENEDICT HOMELESS SHELTER

St. Benedict Inn is still in need of volunteers to serve our homeless brothers and sisters for this winter season. Many people volunteer to cook, serve, and clean. The greater need now is for "companions," those who stay for a four-hour shift with another person and stay awake. This ministry is very rewarding, knowing that you are vigilant for Christ's poor ones, a great ADVENT activity for anyone over 18 years. If you are able to serve in this way, please contact Kim Jagoe at 684-7719. Kim will train you at a time of your convenience and schedule you with a veteran companion for the first few times. Also, if you plan to give an alternative Christmas gift, please consider a donation to St. Benedict's made payable to: Diocese of Owensboro. Mail to Sister Suzanne Sims, 514 St. Ann Street, Owensboro, KY 42303. Your monetary charity is also important.



St. Ambrose

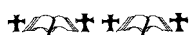
READING UNDER ONE'S BREATH

"In the early Christian centuries reading was conceived of strictly for proclamation, and reading aloud also facilitated the reader's understanding. That Ambrose could scan the

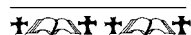
pages with his eyes alone suggested to the admiring St. Augustine a rare ability for reading and familiarity with the Scriptures. Well, in that "reading under one's breath," where the heart is committed to achieving knowledge of the Word of God, one can glimpse the method of Ambrosian catechesis; it is Scripture itself, intimately assimilated, which suggests the content to proclaim that will lead to the conversion of hearts."

*Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, October 24, 2007
Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service*

THE WORD OF GOD



The word of God is at work in you



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The Word of God, who in the beginning was with God, is not, in his fullness, a multiplicity of words; it is not many words but a single Word that embraces a great number of ideas of which each is a part of the Word in its totality.

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT FOR OUR BISHOP

Let us continue to ask God's guidance on the selection of our next bishop: "*Veni, Sancte Spiritus! Come, Holy Spirit!*"

"THE TOYS TAKE OVER CHRISTMAS"

The Owensboro Catholic Middle School Drama Club will present the Christmas production of 'The Toys Take Over Christmas' on Thursday, December 10, at 7:00PM at the Immaculate Parish Hall. Open to parents and the public.

ADVENT DAY OF PRAYER

An Advent "Day of Prayer" is scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, from 9:00AM-2:00PM at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, Maple Mount. Led by Msgr. Bernard Powers, the Advent Prayer Day will help deepen one's faith during the celebration of this holiest of seasons. The \$10 fee includes lunch. To register, contact Kathy McCarty at 229-0200, ext. 413 or kathy.mccarty@maplemount.org. Visit www.msjcenter.org.

SWEETHEART GALA

The Men Who Cook committee is actively seeking chefs for the third annual *Men Who Cook* event on February 13, at 7:00PM in the Hines Center. Any man who can prepare a dish may sign up. Government officials, media personalities and business leaders are encouraged to get involved, as well as any guy who possesses a touch of culinary skill. All *Men Who Cook* proceeds benefit the mission work of the Glenmary Sisters who serve the poorest of Americans living in the rural south and Appalachia. For an updated list of chefs or to nominate a chef, visit glenmarysisters.org or call 686-8401. Tickets are \$20 per person; \$35 per couple.

GIFT BASKETS AVAILABLE

Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center is offering baskets of homemade goodies, ideal for holiday gift giving. A large basket contains 1/2 lb. each of peanut butter fudge, chocolate fudge, peanut brittle, and buckeye candy treats, as well as three dozen cookies (oatmeal, chocolate chip, and peanut butter) and four mini loaves of bread, (pumpkin, banana, cranberry, and zucchini). The cost is \$59.95. A smaller basket is available for \$39.95. Limited delivery in the Owensboro area between December 10-18. Baskets mailed for an additional shipping fee. Pre-order by December 4. To order, contact Jennifer Byrd at Mount Saint Joseph Conference and Retreat Center, 229-0200, ext. 260, or jennifer.byrd@maplemount.org. An order form is online at www.msjcenter.org.

ACETTE KIDDIE CAMP

Acette Kiddie Camp will be held Saturday, December 5, in the Owensboro Catholic High School Small Gym. Registration: 8:30-9:00; Camp: 9:00-12:00. The Camp is for grades kindergarten-8, Fee: \$28 (includes T-shirt, snacks, and admission to basketball game) Performance (optional): OCHS v. OHS, Friday, December 11, 7:30PM.