

## † 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 Manager ..... Larry 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 Ministry ..... Fr. 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-chair....926-9187  
 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 Ward.....684-3494  
 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	Sheila Calhoun	264-0615
Music Ministries	Michael E. Conley	683-6525

### EDUCATION

Education Committee	Christine Lowe	926-0605
Christian Initiation	Sr. Therese Francis	683-6525
Faith Formation (K-8)	Sr. Therese Francis	683-6525
Faith Formation Children / Adults	Sr. Therese Francis	683-6525
Sunday Scripture Sharing	Sr. Therese Francis	683-6525
	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 (Chuck)	926-9270
Giving Tree	Lupe Ellis	685-0990
Unemployment Support Group	Vicky Connor	683-0147

### COMMUNITY and FAMILY ENRICHMENT

Com/Fam Enrich Cmt	Elaine Thomas	903-7663
Parish Newsletter	MaryHilda McFarland	683-7732
	Lisa Kyle	685-2446
Parish Photographer	Lois Rutigliano	683-4875
Parish Outreach-Cards	Dottie Riney	684-6445
	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 Campus .....684-7583 Middle School .....683-0480  
 4-6 Campus.....683-6989 High School .....684-3215



For nationwide Mass times and locations: call Mass Times at 1-410-676-6000 or visit [www.Masstimes.org](http://www.Masstimes.org).

Visit our website: [www.ststephencathedral.org](http://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 26 - DECEMBER 27, 2009 †  
SOLEMNITY OF HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (C)**5:00PM MASS**

Altar Servers..... *Frances Seaton, Paige Hicks*  
Lectors..... *Ron Payne, Janice Scherm*  
Min. Brd..... *Laurie Hicks, Denise Payne, Sue Gough*  
Min. Cup *Rebecca Wathen, Sr. Monica Seaton, Larry Lyon, Gene Lyon*  
Min. Hosp..... *Charles Payne, Daniel Richeson, Brad Farmer,*  
*Jess Mattingly, Rachel Mattingly, Gail Douglas*  
Voc. Min..... *Yvonne Seaton*

**7:00AM MASS**

Altar Server..... *John Kirby*  
Lectors..... *Peggy Howard, Margie Hill*  
Min. Brd..... *Glenn E. Thompson*  
Min. Cup..... *Lorraine McFarland, Margaret Mills*  
Min. Hosp..... *Frank Hayden, Skippy Hayden, LaWanna Brand,*  
*Dennis Weafer, Norman Froehlich, Volunteer*  
Voc. Min..... *Margaret Mills*

**9:00AM MASS**

Children Lit..... *Maria Toth, Jessica Toth*  
Altar Servers..... *Molly Welch, Zach Moore*  
Lectors..... *Jennifer Welch, Stephen Carden*  
Min. Brd..... *Sandy Carden, Mark Mahoney, Cindy Mahoney*  
Min. Cup..... *Sharlene Hatfield, Lindsey Alvey, Mary Helen Nash,*  
*Kim Lewis*  
Min. Hosp..... *Barry Hearth, David Moseley, Janie Moseley,*  
*Chris Purk, Ray Purk, Jordyn Moseley*  
Voc. Min..... *Bill and Dottie Riney Family*

**11:00AM MASS**

Altar Servers..... *Kayla Windle, Morgan Goetz*  
Lectors..... *Margaret Windle, Joan Perry*  
Min. Brd..... *Peggy Clark, Cecilia Yates, Mary Ford*  
Min. Cup..... *Susan Higdon, Lois Rutigliano, Charlie Shoulta,*  
*Paulo Martins*  
Min. Hosp..... *Fran Rickard, Ryan Rickard, Chuck Payne,*  
*Bruce Galloway, Bradley Fulks, Gene Higdon*  
Voc. Min..... *John and Cecilia Yates*

Dear Parishioners,

## † PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE †

By now, you have heard the news that Pope Benedict has appointed Father William F. Medley as the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Owensboro. Currently, he is the pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Louisville. What a great Christmas present this is for the Church in western Kentucky! Bishop-elect Medley will be ordained and installed on February 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, there is much work to be done to prepare for this wonderful occasion. For some months now, I have been working as the co-chair of the planning committee. Let us pray in thanksgiving for our new shepherd as we pray for him as he prepares to assume his new role in our midst.

I came across a website recently that I wish I had found prior to Advent. It is filled with suggestions of ways to enter into the real spirit of the Advent season in order to properly prepare for Christmas. Even though there are only a few more days of Advent, check it out and be prepared to look at it as we enter Advent next November: [adventconspiracy.org](http://adventconspiracy.org)

You may recall that December 26<sup>th</sup> is the feast of St. Stephen. Due to its proximity to Christmas, it is difficult to celebrate our parish feast day as we should. That is why our annual celebration is the anniversary of the dedication of our Church on September 26<sup>th</sup>. St. Stephen, the Church's first martyr, was committed to the care of the poor as his witness to Jesus. A good way to celebrate St. Stephen's Day is to follow his example. Spend twenty minutes online, either alone or as a household, researching poverty issues in our area. Make a commitment to volunteer or donate more during the coming year to serve the poor as Stephen did. Perhaps spend an hour on this day going through your closets and drawers to find clothing you seldom wear, and donate it to a shelter.

Certainly you share my disappointment that the Senate voted to table the Nelson-Hatch-Casey amendment to the Health-Care bill. This is the amendment, similar to the one in the House bill, which would have prohibited federal funds for abortion. Our American bishops have expressed their deep disappointment in this decision. Speaking on behalf of the Conference, Cardinal Francis George has stated: "The Senate is ignoring the promise made by President Obama and the will of the American people in failing to incorporate longstanding prohibitions on federal funding for abortion and plans that include abortion."

I look forward to celebrating our Christmas liturgies with you. On behalf of Fr. Joshua and all our parish staff, I want to assure you of our prayers and to wish you and your family God's special blessings as we celebrate Christ's birth. Merry Christmas!

Love, Fr. John



## Mass Intentions for the week

	7:00AM	12:05PM
<b>Mon</b>	Larry R. Payne Fam	Mary Ruth Danhauer
<b>Tues</b>	Right to Life	Mrs. Kate Lindemann
<b>Wed</b>	Betty Bittel Payne	Margaerite Welsh
<b>Thurs</b>	Joe Kurz Fam, L/D	<b>NO NOON MASS</b>
<b>Sat</b>	Gene Boone	Joan Wunder

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

<b>4:00PM</b>	Larry Baughn
<b>Midnight</b>	William H./Mildred M. Goetz
<b>7:00AM</b>	Joe Fisher
<b>9:00AM</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>11:00AM</b>	Mary Merrimee

### Sunday, December 27

<b>Sat 5:00PM</b>	Sam Grant
<b>Sun 7:00AM</b>	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>9:00AM</b>	Charles E. Carrico
<b>11:00AM</b>	Ray W. Miller and Family



### EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION

“Babe of Bethlehem, Prophet of peace, encourage attempts to promote *dialogue* and *reconciliation*, sustain the *efforts to build peace*, which hesitantly, yet not without

hope, are being made to bring about a more tranquil present and future for so many of our brothers and sisters in the world.

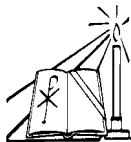
“*Everywhere peace is needed!* You, Prince of true peace, help us to understand that the only way to build peace is to flee in horror from evil, and to pursue goodness with courage and perseverance. Men and women of good will, of every people on the earth, come with trust to the crib of the Savior!”

*John Paul II, “Urbi et Orbi,” December 25, 2004  
Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service*

### A VOCATION VISTA

Man, in order to live, needs bread, the fruit of the earth and of his labor. But he does not live by bread alone. He needs nourishment for his soul: he needs meaning that can fill his life.

Thus, for the Fathers, the manger of the animals became the symbol of the altar, on which lies the Bread which is Christ himself: the true food for our hearts. Once again we see how he became small: in the humble appearance of the host, in a small piece of bread, he gives us himself.



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

## The Week Ahead

### SUNDAY, December 20—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM; PSS: IV  
Children’s Liturgy of the Word, 9:00AM  
Sunday Sharing, Undercroft, 9:45AM  
No Faith Formation  
Mass in Spanish, SS Joseph & Paul, Noon  
SPACE, Undercroft, 2:30PM  
Recitation of the Rosary, Church, 3:45PM  
**Advent Evening Prayer and Adoration, Church, 6:00PM**  
**Photos, Church, 6:00-8:30PM**

### MONDAY, December 14—St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor

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

### TUESDAY, December 22—Advent Weekday

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

### WEDNESDAY, December 23—Advent Weekday; St. John of Kanty, Priest

Daily Mass at 7:00AM & 12:05PM  
Book of Sirach Scripture Study, Media Ctr, 10:30AM  
**Decorate Church, 6:00PM**

### THURSDAY, December 24—VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

Daily Mass at 7:00AM; (No 12:05PM Mass)

**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Christmas Vigil Mass, Church, 4:00PM**  
**Mass, Blessed Sacrament Chapel, 8:00PM**  
**Choral Prelude, Church, 11:30PM**  
**Midnight Mass, Church, Midnight**

### FRIDAY, December 25—THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Masses at 7:00AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM

DIOCESAN GOOD WORKS COLLECTION

**CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### SATURDAY, December 26—ST. STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR; PATRON OF DIOCESE OF OWENSBORO

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**



### SUNDAY, December 27—FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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

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

Sunday Sharing, Undercroft, 9:45AM

No Faith Formation

Mass in Spanish, SS Joseph & Paul, Noon

Recitation of the Rosary, Church, 3:45PM

**No Youth Group**



## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

*Living and Giving Gratefully*

### This Week's Stewardship Moment

**Gratitude, Generosity and Trust** ... these have been the focus of our stewardship reflections the first three Sundays of Advent. Having these in our hearts we are more ready as we await Christ's coming. This coming week will be a week filled with joyful anticipation. Good stewards live in anticipation of fulfilling, doing and sharing in the Master's work.

### 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 \$15,025.37 in the Sunday Offertory for the Weekend of December 12 and 13, which included \$262.04 from "Kids Care." Our parish received an additional \$6,249.99 in Electronic Fund Transfers (EFT) in December.

### Fiscal Year-to-Date Information (7/1/09 – 12/13/09)

Goal for Fiscal Year-to-Date:	\$384,000.00
Amount Donated:	\$380,427.22
Amount Short of Needed Goal:	\$ 3,572.78

Thanks for Living and Giving Gratefully!

"Kids Care" Fiscal Year-to-Date	\$ 1,566.81
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### Some of the Gifts from the Other Half of our Stewardship

Diocesan/Other Collections	December 12-13	Total
"St. Stephen Cathedral Restoration & Renewal"	\$7,585.00	\$906,296.15
Maintenance & Repairs Fund	\$ 305.00	\$ 4,395.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 715.50	\$ 1,235.00
Retired Religious	\$ 675.00	\$ 845.00
St. Vincent de Paul Society	\$1,484.67	\$ 6,477.41
Diocesan Good Works	\$ 5.00	\$ 15.00

## Please Pray For All The Sick

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

- Names in bold print are those currently in the hospital.
- Please let us know when a name may be removed.

### PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS IN NURSING HOMES

**Carmel Home**-Dora Peak, Virginia Carrico, Mary C. Kelley, Leon Keller, Gladys Thompson, Edna Kavolus, Margaret Roberts, Ray Coomes, Lucille Tong, Margaret Tyler, Martha Sims, Rosalia McPherson, Hugh Riney. **Fern Terra**-Janie Jackson, Lorraine Payne. **Owensboro Place**-Charles B. Payne, Mary Bopp. **Hillcrest**-Susan Ward, Jim O'Bryan, Bertha Horrell, Albert Bellew. **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. **Rosedale**-Ursula Coogan; **Hermitage**-Daniel Dawson, Rose T. Cecil, Bobby Ford.

### THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS

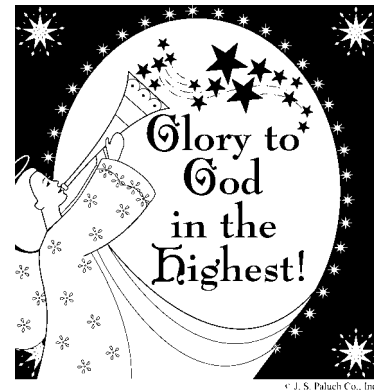
In Jesus Christ God not only speaks to man but also *seeks him out*. The incarnation of the Son of God attests that God goes in search of man. This divine search, which recalls the image of the good shepherd and the lost sheep, is indispensably part of the instrumental action which priests, as shepherds in the Shepherd, are called to undertake during these years with renewed zeal.

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



### WELCOME!

We cordially welcome  
Bishop-Elect Medley!



### PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED

Please pray for those who have recently died, especially *Jeanne Riney*, daughter of *Betty Riney* and sister of *Rose Mary Thompson* and cousin of *Rosemary Payne*; and *Marvin Payne*, brother of *Mary Ford* and *Ruth Zachery*.



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:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45  
**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56  
**Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66  
**Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79  
**Friday:** **Vigil:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25] **Midnight:** Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 **Dawn:** Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]  
**Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22  
**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-20 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR PARISH MEMBERS**

- 12/20: Gail Douglas, Regina Howard, Charles Payne, Tony Ward
- 12/21: Gene Bowlds, Cheryl Hayden, David Hemingway, Steve Higdon, Ann-Claude Rakotoniana, Frankie Richardson, Christa Stefanopoulos
- 12/22: Madelyn Castlen, Elmo Thomson, Jr.
- 12/23: Billy Booth, Bianca Osborne, Mary Dian Wathen, Alan Zambrano
- 12/24: Juanita Brown, Gilbert Moore, Susan Mutter, Charles Riccio, Yvonne Seaton
- 12/25: Jeremy O'Bryan, John Andrew Steele
- 12/26: Joan Perry, Ed Pickett, Aaron Pierce.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS**



Christmas Flower contributions may be made in memory of deceased loved ones or for special friends. Poinsettias this year are \$25. Thank you for your donation. A list of memorials will be published soon. May we cherish the memories of our loved ones with faith and hope as we celebrate Christ's coming.

**CHURCH DECORATING**



Everyone is invited to help decorate the Church for Christmas on Wednesday, December 23, beginning at 6:00PM. Many hands will get everything done much more quickly. Refreshments and seasonal music will be provided as we prepare the Church to celebrate the birth of our dear Savior, Christ the Lord.

**BABY JESUS BLESSING**



Children are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figurines from their home nativity scenes for a special blessing at the 4:00PM Christmas Vigil Mass on December 24.

**PRAYER INVITATION**



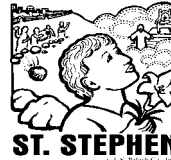
Permanent Adorer positions are open at the Carmel Home for adoration on Wednesdays, 2:00–3:00AM and 3:00–4:00AM; Saturdays: 1:00–2:00AM and 2:00–3:00AM; Sundays: 1:00–2:00AM. Sub-Adorers are also needed for Eucharistic adoration hours: Mid-night to 5:00AM. Call Marti Castlen at 929-5839.



**WORD OF LIFE**



“In every child we see something of the Child of Bethlehem. Every child asks for our love...The Child of Bethlehem summons us once again to do everything in our power to put an end to the suffering of children; to do everything possible to make the light of Bethlehem touch the heart of every man and woman.



**ST. STEPHEN  
PRINCIPAL PATRON OF DIOCESE**

“The feast of St Stephen, the Church's first martyr, is set in the spiritual light of the Nativity of Christ. Stephen, a young man ‘full of faith and of the Holy Spirit,’ as he is described in the Acts of the Apostles (6: 5), together with another six men, was ordained a deacon in the first community of Jerusalem and, because of his passionate and courageous preaching, was arrested and stoned...and ‘the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul’ (Acts 7: 58).

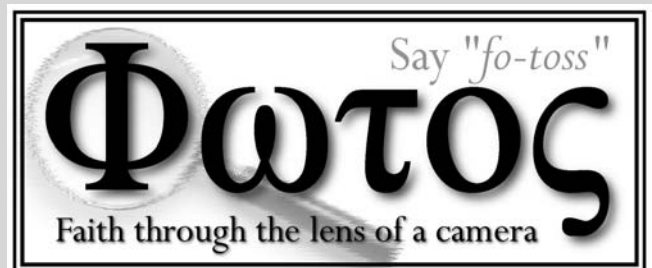
“Shortly after Stephen's martyrdom, Saul, still driven by zeal against the Christians, went to Damascus to arrest those he would find there...On the road, Saul realized that in persecuting the Church he was persecuting Jesus who had died and was truly risen; Jesus, alive in his Church and alive in Stephen who he had indeed seen dying but who now certainly lived together with his Risen Lord. We could almost say that in Christ's voice he recognized Stephen's, and also that through Stephen's intercession divine grace touched his heart. This is how Paul's life changed radically. From that moment, Jesus became his righteousness, his sanctification, his redemption (cf. 1 Cor 1: 30), his all. And, one day he, too, was to follow Jesus in Stephen's very footsteps, shedding his own blood in witness to the Gospel.”

*Pope Benedict XVI, “Angelus,” December 26, 2008  
Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service*

**ADVENT COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES**

- Dec. 20: Blessed Mother (*Owensboro*): 2:00PM
- Dec. 20: St. Alphonsus (*St. Joseph*): 2:00PM
- Dec. 21: St. Lawrence (*Knottsville*) 6:00PM

**SUNDAY EVENING, 6:00-8:00PM**  
[Ststephencathedralyouth.blogspot.com](http://Ststephencathedralyouth.blogspot.com)





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**December 24: Vigil of Christmas**

4:00PM Christmas Vigil Mass  
 11:30PM Choral Prelude begins  
 12:00AM Mass

*At Christmas, all genuflect at the words in the Creed: "And He became Man."*

**December 25: NATIVITY of the LORD**

7:00AM Christmas Mass at Dawn  
 9:00 AM Christmas Morning Mass  
 11:00AM Christmas Day Mass

**Saturday/Sunday December 26-27:****Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

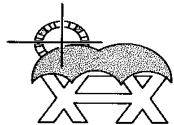
Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

**December 31: Vigil of Holy Day:**

Mass at 6:00PM

**January 1: SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER OF GOD  
World Day of Prayer for Peace**

7:00AM, 12:05PM and 6:00PM Masses

**THE BIRTH OF JESUS  
THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY**

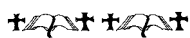
“To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe

wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger’ (Lk 2:11-12). Nothing miraculous, nothing extraordinary, nothing magnificent is given to the shepherds as a sign. All they will see is a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, one who, like all children, needs a mother’s care; a child born in a stable, who therefore lies not in a cradle but in a manger. God’s sign is the baby in need of help and in poverty. Only in their hearts will the shepherds be able to see that this baby fulfils the promise of the prophet Isaiah, ‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder’ (Is 9:5). Exactly the same sign has been given to us. We too are invited by the angel of God to set out in our hearts to see the child lying in the manger.”

*Pope Benedict XVI, "Homily," December 24, 2006  
 Courtesy of V.I.S. - Vatican Information Service*

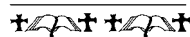
**RING IN THE SEASON**

The Precious Blood Hand Bell and Adult Choirs will present a Christmas program, December 20, at 6:00PM at the church, 3306 Fenmore Street. You are invited to celebrate with them in joyful hope for the birth of our Lord.

**THE WORD OF GOD**

The word  
of God  
is at work  
in you

Our faith is not centered only on a book, but on a history of salvation and on a person, Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh, man and history.



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**STAR OF THE SEA  
"AVE MARIS STELLA"**

Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to His Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!

**NEXT TEC FOR JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

Attention High School Juniors and Seniors: a Teens Encounter Christ weekend will be held at St Charles Parish in Bardwell, KY, February 13-15. TEC weekends are a great time to get away from the hustle and bustle, and to have some time for faith, food, fun and friendship in Christ. The weekend schedule begins on Saturday morning and ends on Monday afternoon. The hard deadline to sign up is noon on Friday, January 29. Please sign up early. Reunion: 4:30PM. For application or information, visit [wkytec.org](http://wkytec.org).

**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. 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](mailto:fr.andy.garner@pastoral.org), or email Tami Schneider at [tami.schneider@pastoral.org](mailto:tami.schneider@pastoral.org).

**S-P-E-E-D / JUMP CLINIC**

A S-p-e-e-d / Jump Development Clinic for 4-6 graders will be offered December 28-31, 9:00-11:00AM. A Clinic will also be offered for 7-9 graders December 28-31, 1:00-3:00PM. The clinic will be in the large gym at Owensboro Catholic High School. Enrollment limited to 24 in each clinic. Fee is \$60 per child; \$45 for second child; \$30 for third child; free for fourth child. Contact Jim Ivey at 570-8412 or [jim.ivey@owensborocatholic.org](mailto:jim.ivey@owensborocatholic.org).

**PRINCIPAL POSITION OPEN**

Christ the King School, located in Madisonville, KY is seeking a Principal. Candidate must be a practicing Catholic, have Master's Degree, have Principal's Certification, or be eligible for Principal's Certification for the 2010-2011 school year, and have a minimum of four years teaching experience. Principal position open at beginning of 2010 school year. Salary and benefits based on Diocese of Owensboro guidelines. Send resume to [henning825@newwavecomm.net](mailto:henning825@newwavecomm.net) by April 1.

**BULLETIN HOLIDAY DEADLINES**

Announcements for the January 3 bulletin must be received by 4:00PM Tuesday, December 22.