Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 8, 2019
Second Sunday of Advent (A)
Is 11:1-10
Rom 15:4-9
Mt 3:1-12

Creating God's Peaceable Kingdom

At times, God's presence among us is so unspectacular that we need someone else to point it out, someone with a loud voice. That seems to have been the role of John the Baptist. His lifestyle and his message certainly caught everyone's attention. But when he caught their attention, he directed it away from himself to the kingdom of heaven.

He called it a kingdom because that was the government those of his time knew. (Jesus, too, often spoke of his kingdom.) However, the kingdom John referred to is not one of military power and privilege but a "peaceable kingdom," where animals that are normally feared as predators live with each other in peace. A beautiful picture, but is it a possibility or just fantasy? The people believed that some day one would be born who would rule this way, thus enabling them to become a genuine peaceable kingdom. This kingdom would not be made of animals, but of women and men of different races, cultures, and beliefs; women and men who would recognize each other's God-given uniqueness and would create genuine unity from this diversity.

John the Baptist declared that this kingdom "is at hand." Is it? Do we strive to live peacefully with the great diversity of people of our world? Or are we smug as we proclaim: "We have Abraham as our father" (Matthew 3:9), so we are right and you are wrong. The people of John's time should have known better. We should, too. John cries out to them—and to us: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2).

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- *How open are you to people of different faiths, races, or nations?*
- *What can you do to make real the peaceable kingdom of heaven?*

[John the Baptist said,] "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." MATTHEW 3:3

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Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church

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Fr. Sweeney Emergency #: 865-216-6453
Fr. Sweeney Email:fmsdok@gmail.com
Office Email: blessedsacramentoffice@gmail.com
BSC website: blessedsacramentchurchandmissions.com

Rev. Father Michael Sweeney, Pastor
Ann Pio, Secretary
Church Office: Tuesday through Friday 9:30 A.M.- 3:30 P.M.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:00 P.M.
Sunday	10:30 A.M.
Thursday	8:30 A.M.
Holy Days	7:30 P.M.

Sacrament of Baptism
Contact Father concerning instructions for parents
Sacrament of Matrimony
Arrangements are to be made six months in advance
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Individual confessions on Saturdays at 4:30 P.M.

Second Sunday of Advent
December 8, 2019

Today's Mass

	Saturday Vigil Mass
Readers	Brigitte Strickler
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jim Conover Susan Conover Barbara Malinauskas Marciana Jacobson
Altar Servers	Landa Family Vic, Susan, Vic, Jr. & Nic

	Sunday Mass
Readers	Maria Kazmark
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Cathye Palko Steve Palko Jerry Turbyville Joan Turbyville April Wilson
Altar Servers	Kate Laffoon Abigail Patterson

Next week's Mass

	Saturday Vigil Mass
Readers	Susan Conover
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	John Andriulli Jenni Craddick Ed D'Alessandro Marciana Jacobson
Altar Servers	Carol Cowan Brigitte Strickler

	Sunday Mass
Reader	Sean O'Neill
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Eric Angros Bill Copeland Maria Kazmark Connie O'Neill Cathye Palko
Altar Servers	Joe Cochran Alicia Laffoon J.J. Webster

Requiescat in Pace

Saturday, December 7th at the 5:00 PM Vigil Mass
we pray for the soul of

Monsignor Xavier Mankel

Requested by: *Friends of BSC*

Sunday, December 8th at the 10:30 AM Mass
we pray for the souls of

Bill Douglas

Requested by: *Friends & Family of BSC*

May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen

"Pray for one another, so that you too may be healed" (James 5:16)

We remember especially in our prayers: Cooper Lee Stansbury, David Glockner, Father Dennis Cooney, Jose Hernandez, Angelo Ferrante, Dan Thompson, Donna Pawley, Archbishop Kurtz, Sister Mary Georgeanna Mankel, Richard Valdivia, Ray Genoni, Jill Perkey, Edna Krebes, Ann Silva, Michael Baker, those in nursing homes, homebound & on our prayer list.

Stewardship Report
December 1, 2019

Parish Offertory	$ 2,224.00	(YTD)	$ 82,693.63	
Building Fund	$ 1,470.00	(YTD)	$ 21,176.00	
Diocese Collection	$ 000.00	**Total**	$	000.00

"Try me in this, says the Lord"

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

— Mother Teresa

Announcements

Blessed Sacrament Christmas Mass Schedule

"Christmas Eve Mass"

Tuesday, December 24th - 5:00 P.M.

"Midnight Mass 12:00 AM"

"Christmas Day Mass"

Wednesday, December 25th - 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

"Feast of the Solemnity Mary, Mother of God"

Mass 7:30 PM

Children's Program & Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 15th, beginning with the Children's Program at 5:00 P.M. in *Blessed Sacrament Church*. The Christmas Party will follow in *Blessed Sacrament Hall* at 5:30 P.M. *Please bring* a *covered dish* or *dessert* (***Sign-up sheet in the narthex***) to share, then sit back and enjoy great food, friends, and even maybe meet a very "special guest!!!" ***Everyone is invited to attend!!***

Feast of the Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas – Wednesday December 25th, 2019)
All readings from Mass During the
Night (Midnight) Lectionary: #14

Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday Dec. 24 at 5:00pm Eastern (Christmas eve Mass)

Saint Ann: Tuesday Dec. 24 (Christmas eve) at 7:00pm Eastern

Saint Christopher: Tuesday Dec. 24 (Christmas eve) at 8:00pm Central (9:00pm Eastern)

Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday Dec. 25 **(Midnight Mass)** at 12:00 midnight Eastern

Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday Dec. 25 (Christmas day) at 10:30am Eastern

Are you going to be home for Christmas? For all *Readers*, *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* and *Altar Servers*. Sign up sheets are located on the table in the narthex, for those who would like to assist at one or more of the following Masses: **Christmas Eve Mass:** *Tuesday,* December 24th, at 5:00 PM. / **Midnight Mass:** 12:00 AM. **Christmas Day Mass**: *Wednesday,* December 25th, at 10:30 AM.

Memorial Poinsettias for Christmas — The Council of Catholic Women will be accepting donations of $12.00 per poinsettia. This money will go towards the cost of the poinsettias used for decorating the altar and Church during the Christmas Season. If you would like to honor someone, please place your donation in the collection basket, along with the name or names of the person or persons you would like remembered. **Please make your check out to** *"The Council of Catholic Women."*

Box Tops for School — Please note that Campbell Soup does not participate with the Box Tops program. We thank all for the many donations we have received.

The Christmas Angel Tree — Gifts must be in by **Sunday, December 8th or (NO) later than Sunday, December 15th**. On Friday, December 20th, the family will receive a Gift Card to purchase food for their Christmas dinner and the gifts provided for their children. If you have any questions, please call *Cathy Fallon* @ **865-399-0375** or by email at **tncascout@gmail.com**. *Thank you for your generosity!*

Decorating the Church - Last Sunday of Advent - December 22nd / following 10:30 AM Mass. We know that a lot of people are busy, but if you can stay and help in any way to decorate, your helping hands will really be appreciated!

Handicap Parking - *"Please"* reserve the handicap parking spaces for those most in need. This is especially important on Sunday mornings. *Thank you.*

Cooper Lee Stansbury, 3 1/2 years old, the great grandson of ***Ron and Maria Hamm***, has recently been diagnosed with a Neuroblastoma stage 4 tumor which has enveloped his whole body. He's currently undergoing chemotherapy and blood transfusions, with the potential for a bone marrow transplant. The family needs your prayers and any financial assistance you may wish to render. I'm sure it will be greatly appreciated. If you don't have a computer, you may send cards or donations to:

Samuel and Lauren Stansbury
11543 Midhurst Drive
Knoxville, TN 37937

Or you may give by going to the Go Fund Me page at:
https://www.gofundme.com>f>super-cooper-troopers

Thank you and God Bless.

A Gift List Anyone Can Afford

The things we often remember most are those which cost little or nothing at all, but those which are the most precious...is the gift of ourselves and our love.

1. The gift of **Listening**
2. The gift of **Signs of Affection**
3. The gift of **an unexpected Note, Letter, or Phone Call**
4. The gift of **Laughter**
5. The gift of **a Visit**
6. The gift of **Doing a Favor**
7. The gift of **a Cheerful Disposition**
8. The gift of **Support to Someone Left Alone**
9. The gift of a **Compliment**
10. The gift of **Prayer**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Corner

Advent is a period of devout and joyful expectation when we look forward to the coming celebration of Christmas when Christ the Light of the World was born in Bethlehem. Not only is Advent a season to prepare us for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered, but it is a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you during this Advent season. Please call ***Susan*** or ***Jim Conover*** **at (865) 684-9003** or **(865) 247-1559**, or you may contact them via email at susan.jimrconover@gmail.com if you have questions and would like further information.

Parish Calendar of Events

December 7 – December 29, 2019

Saturday - December 7th	**Vigil Mass** 5:00 PM
Sunday - December 8th	**Second Sunday of Advent** / Mass 10:30 AM
	Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
	Religious Education Classes 9:00 - 10:15 AM / Parish Center
	The Knights of Columbus will meet following Mass at the Parish Center
	The Knights of Columbus will be selling "*Keep Christ in Christmas*" cards following Mass
Monday - December 9th	**Celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception / Mass 12:00 PM**
	Adult Classes - 6:00 PM at the Parish Center
Wednesday - December 11th	**St. Ann Penance Service** - 7:00 PM (*Eastern Time*)
	RCIA - 6:00 PM at Parish Center
Thursday - December 12th	**Weekday Mass** 8:30 AM
Saturday - December 14th	**Vigil Mass** 5:00 PM
	The Knights of Columbus will be selling "*Keep Christ in Christmas*" cards following Mass
Sunday - December 15th	**Third Sunday of Advent** / Mass 10:30 AM
	Religious Education Classes 9:00 - 10:15 AM / Parish Center
	Children's Program 5:00 PM / **BSC Christmas Party** 5:30 PM
	Bring a covered dish to share.
Monday - December 16th	**Adult Classes** - 6:00 PM at the Parish Center
Wednesday - December 18th	**Blessed Sacrament Penance Service** - 7:00 PM / **NO RCIA**
Thursday - December 19th	**Weekday Mass** 8:30 AM
	St. John Neumann Penance Service - 6:00 PM
Saturday - December 21st	**Vigil Mass** 5:00 PM
Sunday - December 22nd	**Fourth Sunday of Advent** / Mass 10:30 AM
	Decorating the Church for the Christmas Season following Mass.
	NO Religious Education Classes
	Donuts & Coffee *(Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus)*
Monday - December 23rd	**NO Adult Classes**
Tuesday - December 24th	**Christmas Eve Mass** 5:00 PM **/ Blessed Sacrament Church**
	St. Ann Mass, Lancing 7:00 PM (*Eastern Time*)
	St. Christopher Mass, Jamestown 8:00 PM (*Central Time*) / 9:00 PM (*Eastern Time*)
	Midnight Mass 12:00 Midnight **/ Blessed Sacrament Church**
Wednesday - December 25th	**Christmas Day Mass** 10:30 AM (*Eastern Time*) **Blessed Sacrament Church**
	NO RCIA
Thursday - December 26th	**Weekday Mass** 8:30 AM
Saturday - December 28th	**Vigil Mass** 5:00 PM
	5th Sunday Rosary before Mass at 4:35 PM
Sunday - December 29th	**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph** / Mass 10:30 AM
	5th Sunday Rosary before Mass at 10:10 AM

Saint Ann Catholic Church
198 Ridge Road
Lancing, TN 37770
Mass: Sunday 8:30 AM
(Eastern Time)

Saint Christopher Catholic Church
160 Holt Spur Road, Jamestown, TN 38556
Vigil Mass: Saturday 6:30 PM *(Central Time)*

Religious Education for Youth
Director: *Alicia Laffoon*
Alicia Mobile: 865-250-5686
Email: alaffoon@tntech.edu

The Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight: *Chris Wilson*
Phone: 865-466-5614 / **Email:** chriswilson1974@hotmail.com
Dedicated in Service to the Pope, Bishop, Priests, Religious, Parish, and Community.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Do you have questions about the Catholic Faith?

If you, or someone you know, would like more information about the teachings of the Catholic Church, please contact Susan or Jim Conover at **865-684-9003** or **865-247-1559**, or email them at **susan.jimrconover@gmail.com**

The Council of Catholic Women
All women of BSC are members of the CCW.
Meetings: will be posted in your up coming Bulletin.
Watch for them!

Weekly Church Communication
Director: Christine Roschli
Phone: 865-924-6902 / **Email:** croschli@gmail.com
For prayer requests, announcements, funeral arrangements and other information.

Youth Ministry / CYO
Directors: Bridget & Mary Thew
Mary / Mobile: 865-323-1877/**Email:** cyoblessedsacrament@gmail.com

Adult Bible Study
Directors: Jane & Michael Logan
Jane: **865-585-3670** / Mike: **865-585-3946**
Monday, at 6:00 PM / Parish Center

Celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 9th at BSC / Mass 12:00 Noon

"Feast of the Immaculate Conception"

December 8th

"I am the Immaculate Conception." (Lourdes, 1858) "Pray for poor sinners."

On December 8, 1854—Pope Pius IX made this announcement. "We declare, pronounce and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful." It can perhaps be argued that this truth remains one of the Church's most misunderstood teachings. Those casually familiar with the term erroneously assume it refers to the Virgin Mary's conceiving Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. But the Immaculate Conception has to do with the unborn Mary and her parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim. Church historians point out that a feast called the Conception of Mary, also known as the conception of St. Anne, began in Palestinian monasteries no later than the seventh century. The Marian feast, then celebrated in the East on Dec. 9th, isn't identical with the feast of the Immaculate Conception which, over time, came to be marked on Dec. 8th in the West. Those same historians note that this feast as we know it now in the West really moved along two tracks at the same time. One was liturgical, as it made its way onto the universal calendar. It was approved by Pope Sixtus IV in 1476 and extended to the entire church by Pope Pius V in 1568. The other track was theological, as the church's greatest minds—and some of its most brilliant saints worked at figuring out what the "Immaculate Conception" really meant. That's where the development of doctrine comes in. The church's becoming "ever more aware" through the centuries.

Thanks to the assistance of the Holy Spirit, the understanding of both the realities and the words of the heritage of the faith is able to grow in the life of the Church. It's the same process that has led to the pronouncement of other dogmas, including the relationships among the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity, and the divine and human natures of Christ. Scripture scholars note that although there's no explicit revelation of the Immaculate Conception in the Bible there are texts that support the dogma: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; she will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3:15). "And coming to her, he (Gabriel) said, 'Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you'" (Luke 1:28). "(Elizabeth) cried out in a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb'" (Luke 1:42). Pope Pius cited all three in *Ineffabilis Deus* as the biblical basis for defining the Immaculate Conception to be a "doctrine revealed by God."

Centuries earlier, based on Scripture, most Eastern and Western Church Fathers had taught that Mary was free from even the slightest personal sin but they were unclear about her being exempt from original sin. Although Church Fathers had called Mary the "new Eve" for her obedience to God's request, some of them and, later, some doctors of the Church (great teacher-saints) weren't about to accept the Immaculate Conception as a revealed truth of the faith. Among those with serious doubts were St. Bernard of Clairaux (credited with writing the Memorare), St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Bonaventure.

The problem? This doctrine seemed to exempt Mary from being redeemed by her son, the Savior of the world. Other theologians, especially Franciscans, challenged and re-examined that apparent stumbling block. The "theological breakthrough" was mainly the work of John Duns Scotus (1266-1308), who introduced the notion of "preservative" redemption. As later proclaimed by Pope Pius IX, it meant that Mary was free from sin at the first moment of her conception by a special grace from God. This preserved her from original sin, making her a recipient, in a foreseen manner, of the redemptive merits of Christ. Theologians say her "preredemption" was the infusion of grace at the moment of her soul's entry into her body. However, the "theological path" from the time of Scotus (who came to be called the "Herald of the Immaculate Conception") until Pius IX's encyclical was not a straight or smooth one. It took centuries for the teaching to gain acceptance. But it did… in the hearts of the faithful. Five years before issuing the *Ineffabilis Deus,* Pope Pius released an encyclical titled *Ubi Primum.* This is where the *sensus fidelium*—the sense of the faithful, formally enters the story. Pius asked his brother bishops around the world what they, their clergy and the faithful believed concerning the Immaculate Conception, and whether these three groups wished it to be defined as dogma. The response to the latter was a resounding "Yes!"

Church historians say that of the major influences in the historical development of the Immaculate Conception, a significant one was the *sensus fidelium*—the beliefs of the faithful, especially in the liturgical worship of the Church. This public witness was behind the gradual extension and elevation of the feast of the Immaculate Conception. And it was the church at large that helped create the theological climate in which doctrinal difficulties could be addressed and definitively settled.

Four years after Pius' pronouncement, yet another voice spoke up. It was heard by a 14-year-old girl near the little town of Lourdes, France, where Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous 18 times. On March 25, 1858, the feast of the Annunciation, the teen gently and politely prodded the visitor to please identify herself.

That day it was Our Lady Herself, who declared,

"I am the Immaculate Conception."

By: Bill Dodds

Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 10	DECEMBER 11	DECEMBER 12	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 14	DECEMBER 15
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	*Advent Weekday*	*Advent Weekday*	*Our Lady of Guadalupe*	*St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*	*St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*	*Third Sunday of Advent*
Gn 3:9–15, 20	Is 40:1–11	Is 40:25–31	Zec 2:14–17 or	Is 48:17–19	Sir 48:1–4, 9–11	Is 35:1–6a, 10
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12	Mt 18:12–14	Mt 11:28–30	Rv 11:19a;	Mt 11:16–19	Mt 17:9a, 10–13	Jas 5:7–10
Lk 1:26–38			12:1–6a, 10ab			Mt 11:2–11
			Lk 1:26–38			
			or Lk 1:39–47			

Dear Padre,

An intellectual friend told me that she loves the great dogmas of Advent. I smiled and agreed, but I don't have the faintest idea what she meant!

Dogma refers to Church teachings defined by an ecumenical council, including the pope, or by the pope alone acting as head of the Church. The magisterium, the Church's teaching authority, tells us these must-be-believed truths have been divinely revealed to us. During Advent, we celebrate two dogmas: the immaculate conception of Mary, which we honor tomorrow, and the Incarnation, which includes the birth of Christ that we prepare for now.

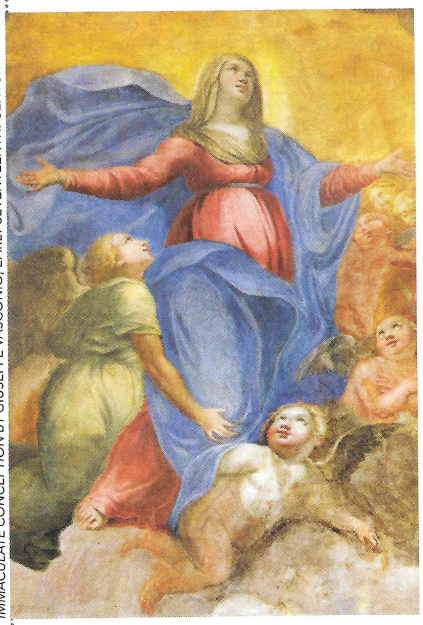

PHOTO © RENATA SEDMAKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK. *IMMACULATE CONCEPTION* BY GIUSEPPE VASCONIO, EARLY SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Both dogmas speak of God's extraordinary connection with humanity. God specially gifted Mary because of her role in becoming the Mother of God. Mary, from the instant of her conception, was free from original sin. Her closeness to Jesus was established from the earliest moments of her existence.

The dogma of the Incarnation is defined simply by St. John. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). During the year, we first celebrate the Incarnation on March 25, at the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Scripture and Tradition hold that Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb when she accepted God's will by answering yes to the angel's announcement that she would bear the "Son of the Most High" (Luke 1:32). During Advent, we eagerly anticipate the result of that Incarnation, Jesus' birth.

Dogmas can sometimes seem disconnected from our lives. The customs of Advent put an everyday face on the book definitions and remind us that God lives in our midst.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications

A WORD FROM

Pope Francis

It is the mystery of Christ's flesh: one doesn't understand love for thy neighbor, one doesn't understand love for thy brother if one doesn't understand this mystery of Incarnation. I love my brother because he too is Christ, is Christlike, is the flesh of Christ.

VISIT TO PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION, JULY 28, 2014

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