Our Parish COMMUNITY

December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent (C)
Bar 5:1–9
Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
Lk 3:1–6

EVGENY ATAMANENKO / SHUTTERSTOCK

And the Word Was Made Flesh

Many of us grew up thinking that this life doesn't amount to much. It's full of pitfalls and enticements that threaten our eternal salvation. Such disdain often boils over into contempt for the world. According to this thinking, it is only the next life that is important, which will unfold in a much better place. Today's readings challenge such extreme thinking. They assure us that the glory of God is partially revealed to us even within this life. They astound us by insisting that God speaks to us through life's events—events that often appear to be quite mundane.

Baruch tells of Jerusalem, the city loved passionately by every Israelite. This was a city like so many other cities. However, God dwelt there and wherever God dwells is, for that reason, a holy city—be it is Jerusalem, Munich, or Detroit. God dwells in our midst, right here, right now. Hence, this imperfect life and this damaged world are holy.

The Gospel situates John the Baptist in the middle of the ancient Near Eastern world. It was a Roman world controlled by Caesar and a Jewish province ruled over by Herod. John stated that it was to that place at that time that the Promised One would come, and it was up to John to "prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3; Luke 3:4).

Most importantly, we must never forget that God took on the troubles and sins of this world and entered our life, making it his life. This is the real reason that this world is holy.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- *Incarnation means that Jesus is made of the stuff of this world, just as we are. Think about this.*
- *Nothing is too common that it can't be holy. What does that mean?*

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

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ftonyb57@ymail.com

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270-723-2740 deedeej80@gmail.com

Prayer Chain - Betty Miller 270-259-3303
bettymil@windstream.net

Masses: Dec 7—Dec 12

Monday	7:30 am	Prayer/Communion
Tuesday	12:05 pm	†Kathleen DePoyster
Wednesday	**7:30 am**	Mott Hughes
	12:05 pm	†Barry Clark
	5:30 pm	Audrey Wortham
Thursday	12:05 pm	†Dick Gatto
Friday	7:30 am	Souls in Purgatory
Saturday	4:00 pm	†Philip Johnston
Sunday	7:00 am	St. Joseph & St. John
Sunday	11:00 am	†Glenn Braun

Confessions: Saturday at 3:00 pm

Anytime by request

Pastoral Council

Barbara Allen — Edna Duggins
Jim Cecil — Ann Marshall-Secretary
Jerry Clemons-Chair — Chris Nelson
Kirk Collard — Carolyn Thomason– Vice Chair
Eddie Clemons

Stewardship of Finance
November 14 $2686

Thank you for your generosity!
July 1, - October 31, 2021

Total Income	$131,000
Total Expense	$121,000
Difference	$ 10,000

Lector Schedule

Dec 11—4pm	Dec 12—7am	Dec 12—11am
Erin Cannon	**Andrea Kemp**	**Alfreda Weedman**
Dec 18—4pm	Dec 19—7am	Dec 19—11am
Mark Collins	**Kim Smith**	**Eddie Clemons**
Dec 25—4pm	Dec 26—7am	Dec 26—11am
Robin Embry	**Carolyn Thomason**	**Laquita Clemons**

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

430 St. John Church Rd, Sunfish, KY 42210
Website: www.stjohnch.org St. John Thrift Store 270-597-1038
Pastor Fr. Tony Bickett 270-863-1596

Pastoral Council

Nancy Farmer, Secretary	Joe Durbin
Barbara Fitzhugh	Shelia Durbin
James Hughes-Chair	Jim Sims-Vice Chair

This Week at St. John

Sun	9:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent
Tue	**3:30 pm**	**Holy Day Mass**
Sun	**1:00 pm**	**Parish Christmas Party**

Second Sunday of Advent: "And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more" (Philippians 1:9). During the Christmas shopping season it is easy to get caught up in the frenzy of buying gifts. But, is that "gift" truly an expression of your love for the other person. Or, are you just fulfilling your "obligation" to give them something? To grow in friendship with someone, you need to spend time with them, learn what is of value to them. Maybe this year, buy less "stuff" and spend more time with those you love.

Holy Day: This Wednesday, December 8th is a Holy Day of Obligation of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. We will be having a vigil Mass here on **Tuesday at 3:30 pm** for the Holy Day.

Parish Christmas Party: Come One, Come All to St. John's Christmas Party next Sunday, December 12. The parish will provide the meat and drinks. We will also be playing dirty Santa so bring a small gift.
Bring A Friend.
Bring The Whole Family.
Bring A Side Dish.
Bring A $10 Gift.
Bring Your Christmas Spirit!

Stewardship of Finance

November 14	$683	November 21	$728
Campaign	$25		
November 28	$460		

Thank you for your generosity!

July 1, - October 31, 2021

Total Income	$14,700
Total Expense	$13,200
Difference	$ 1,500

Mass Dec 7—12

Tuesday	**3:30 pm**	†Neiman & Merle Fitzhugh
Sunday	9:00 am	†Lee Wolfe

Minister's Schedule

Date	Server	Lector
Dec 12	Joe Durbin	Nancy F.
Dec 19	Brian Davis	Susan Baatz
Dec 26	Colton/Mason	Joe Durbin

BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Durbin	12/10
Frankie Miller	12/11

Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Virginia Ruth Keith Alexander who passed away. She is the mother of Sheila Durbin. May she rest in peace.

Just Do It! Most everyone knows how to eat right, exercise and stay healthy but too many people just refuse to do it! We might also know that coming to church is good for our bodies, our minds, hearts, and our souls. Do not let this Christmas Eve pass without inviting someone: a neighbor, friend, coworker, or family member, to join us in celebrating the **GREATEST GIFT OF ALL!**

St. John Prayer List: Liz Bush, Shirley Bush, Joe & Joan Childress, Jack Coop, Judy Dombrowski, Liz Durbin, Martha Durbin, Catherine Duvall, Ken Farris, Donna Guest, Goldie Hardin, Laura Hamilton, Betty Jennings, Joe Lonsbery, Delores Monroe, Laura Osborn, Kathryn Sowders, Jim Vessels, Chris Wolfe.

This Week at St. Joseph

Mon	7:30 am	Prayer/Communion
Tue	12:05 pm	Mass
Wed	**7:30 am**	**Holy Day Mass**
	12:05 pm	**Holy Day Mass**
	5:30 pm	**Holy Day Mass**
		No Religious Ed
Thu	12:05 pm	Mass
Fri	7:30 am	Mass
	8:00 am	Adoration
	11:30 am	**Catholic Singles Lunch**
Sat	3:00 pm	Confessions
	10:30 pm	Spanish Mass

Holy Day: This Wednesday, **December 8th** is a Holy Day of Obligation in which Catholics are asked to attend Mass. On this day we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary, when she was conceived without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. We will have Mass here on Wednesday at **7:30 am; 12:05 and 5:30 pm.** St. John will have a vigil Mass on Tuesday at 3:30 pm for the Holy Day.

Two Feasts of Mary: This week we celebrate two important feasts of Mary—the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Juan Diego, who feast is December 9, was the one Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to in 1531. Before Lourdes (1858) and Fatima (1917), Mary appeared in Mexico City. She told Juan Diego, a poor indigenous Mexican man, that he had dignity and that she loved him. This week's challenge is to pray in solidarity with those of Mexican descent who have a special devotion to Our Lady. Fr. Steve will be having a **Spanish Mass here at St. Joseph on Saturday, December 11 at 10:30 pm.**

Catholic Singles: Friday, December 10 at 11:30 am Catholic singles will be having **lunch** on at Las Palmas Mexican Grill on South Main Street. All ages are invited to come.

BIRTHDAYS

Terrilea Lasley	12/06
Keragan Collard	12/07
Erin Cannon	12/08
Owen Bratcher	12/11
Patty Dudgeon	12/11

ANNIVERSARIES

David & Monica Riley	12/08
Kenny & Cathy Young	12/11

Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Barry Clark who passed away. He is the brother of Larry Clark. May he rest in peace.

Saint Nicholas: Monday, December 6 is the feast of St. Nicholas who lived from 270 – 343. He was the bishop of Myra and is the saint that Santa Claus is modeled after. Known for his kindness and generosity to the poor, the story has it that St. Nicholas once tossed bags of gold through the open window of a poor man's house to help his daughters avoid a life of prostitution. According to legend, the gold landed in stockings dangling on the corners of the beds, which is why many of us celebrate St. Nicholas Day by hanging stockings and filling them with candy, fruit, and small toys.

St. Joseph Prayer List: Matt Alvey, Nellie Alvey, Jill Bradley, **Mary Agnes Brown**, **George Cannon**, Melissa Willis Cilwok, Anna Critchelow, Norman Cubbage, **Lukas-Jackson Darnall, (Deacon Bob's grandson**), Delbert Durham, Cheryle Dye, Beverly Eck, **Sylvia Etnyre**, Anita Ferguson, Steve Fey, Dixie Franklin, Gary French, Carol Gatto, **Sherrie Geary**, **Paul Ray Gray Jr.**, Carol Grider, Joyce Green, Ryan Harris, Linda Handzus, Felicity Harper, Debbie Haycraft, Deacon Bob Higbee, **Odelean Hill**, **Martha (Mott) Hughes**, Jane Johnston, Patricia Lindsey, Joseph Lyons, Geral Dean Mattingly, **Anna Marie McKinney**, Sue Milliner, Mandy Egan Pierce, Brad Pogue, Winnett Powell, Harry Rhodes, Susan Rhodes, Wanda Rickling, **Laura Roberson**, Steve Robertson, Veronica Robertson, Lee Rutter, Brenden Sanders, Aaron Shull, John Shull, **Chris Sneed**, **Andy Wilkins**, Larry Woosley, Audrey Wortham, Wanda York

Server's Schedule

Dec 12—7am	Cordale & Maggie Milliner
Dec 12—11am	Jackson & Lilly Kane
Dec 19—7am	John & James Smith
Dec 19—11am	Natalia & Valeria/Gia
Dec 26—7am	Kale Collard
Dec 26—11am	Jim & Jude Winn

Prayer for the Hungry: Good and gracious God, most of us don't understand real hunger. We have plenty to eat and can refill our shelves. All food is a gift from you. Create in us the desire to share what we have in the spirit of Christ. Bless us ither courage and wisdom as we find ways to feed the hungry. Amen.

John the Baptist: Today's Gospel mentions two very powerful and important men, Tiberius Cesar and Pontius Pilate. The Gospel also mentions a very humble and simple man, John the Baptist. Tiberius and Pilate probably never heard of John, but John's mission was one of the most important in all of history. God chose John to be the messenger who would prepare the way for the Messiah by challenging people to stop sinning and rid themselves of the bad habits in their lives.

Jesus would later say that there was no man born of woman greater than John. God often chooses those who are little to do great things. Greatness isn't always what the world considers important. It is in the little acts of love we do for God each day. During Advent, we remember that God has a mission for each of us. In order to carry out that mission, we need to listen to John's words and prepare our own hearts for Jesus' coming. Are you ready? Will you let God speak to you as he spoke to John the Baptist?

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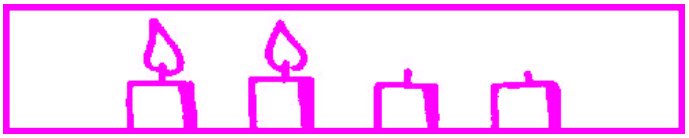
Help Recycle: Help us recycle our cardboard by picking it up at the office on Fridays and taking it the Recycle Center.

The Altar Society is raffling off a Christmas quilt. Tickets are $5 & the drawing is on Dec 19.

RELIGIOUS ED. Wednesday at 5:30 pm

K—5th—Middle School—High School—Adults

Dec 8 **Holy Day Mass at 5:30 pm**, No Class.



Second Sunday of Advent: In today's Gospel John the Baptist urges us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our family and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Ask them to call Catholic Outreach 270-287-3776 so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving Day which we celebrated a couple of weeks ago is an annual reminder of how blessed we all are to live in the United States. Even our poor are richer than the world's poor. The following is a great prayer of thanksgiving:

Oh, God, When I have food; help me to remember the hungry; When I have work, help me to remember the jobless; When I have a warm home, help me to remember the homeless; When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer; And remembering, help me to destroy my complacency and bestir my compassion. Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted. Amen.

Psalm 126:3: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Corporal Works of Mercy: These are concrete ways we can care for our neighbor. These actions call us to treat all people with loving respect and to see Jesus in each person. 1) Feeding the hungry; 2) Giving drink to the thirsty; 3) Giving alms to the poor; 4)Sheltering the homeless; 5) Visiting the sick; 6) Visiting the imprisoned; 7)Burying the dead.

Sunday, Dec 05, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

In praise of community service

Consider him an early volunteer. John the Baptist preached and baptized through the countryside, preparing the community for the way, truth, and life about to open to them. He wasn't paid for these services, which is probably why his diet was locusts and honey, and his clothing coarse. Today on International Volunteer Day, we give thanks for all who helped their neighbors with grocery runs and check-ins during the long season of sickness. We can continue this spirit of social engagement: giving blood, organizing group clean-ups, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk. Volunteering builds empathy!

TODAY'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9; Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6 (6). *"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.' "*

Monday, Dec 06, 2021

MEMORIAL OF NICHOLAS, BISHOP

The wonder of it all

Very little is known about the historical Saint Nicholas, but he evolved into a legendary figure so intertwined with Christmas, it's almost as if he were part of the Nativity story. The actual Nicholas lived 300 years after the birth of Jesus. Whether he secretly gave gifts to children or not, the spirit of his story is real. Centuries later as presents are wrapped in mystery and kept under the tree in anticipation, emotions of waiting for the Christ Child heighten as we ponder a miracle we can't fathom. Thank you, Saint Nicholas, for a tradition that helps incarnate our joy and wonder!

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26 (181). *"We have seen incredible things today."*

Tuesday, Dec 07, 2021

MEMORIAL OF AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Wage peace

Advent anticipates the Prince of Peace. But as we recall Pearl Harbor, Catholics also embrace a tradition that includes just war theory—sketched out by the likes of Saint Augustine, fleshed out by the likes of Saint Ambrose. King David "never waged war unless he was driven to it," Ambrose observed, illustrating that wars should be fought only as a last resort. Further, war should be waged selflessly—to help and protect others. War that "preserves one's country [or] defends the weak . . . is full of justice." Pray for those in the armed services who sacrifice and protect, and also pray for peace.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). *"Comfort, give comfort to my people."*

Wednesday, Dec 08, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (PATRONAL FEAST DAY OF THE U.S.A.)

A day of pure celebration

Today we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, the church's teaching that Mary was preserved from original sin from the moment of her conception. It is one of only two dogmas proclaimed infallibly by a pope. All of today's readings are related: They trace the tale back to the Fall, followed by a celebration of the "marvelous deeds" of God's salvation, culminating in the gospel reading of the Annunciation, where Mary learns she will bear a son who will reverse the curse of sin. Today, honor our Blessed Mother and thank God for her preservation from sin so that she might bring Christ into the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *". . . he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him."*

Thursday, Dec 09, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

Be a witness to the miracle of God's love

We are told that Saint Juan Diego was undistinguished before he became the person to whom the Virgin Mary appeared at Tepeyac, Mexico in 1531. Juan Diego had an opportunity to open himself to God's grace—Mary's appearance and miracle. He responded in faith by listening to the Virgin and persistently communicating her message, even though as an indigenous person, his word was at first discounted. His part in the miracle at Tepeyac has had enduring impact by opening other indigenous and mestizo Mexicans to the gospel message, and by opening church leaders—albeit slowly, in fits and starts—to the message indigenous peoples have for the wider church. Are you ready to receive God's grace, as did Juan Diego?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

Friday, Dec 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF LORETO

Jesus makes his presence known

Emmanuel, "God is with us," is our guiding truth. Christians find many ways to remind ourselves of God's Real Presence. Of course, the primary way is through the Eucharist. But shrines and relics are also a very Catholic way of pointing to the reality of Christ in our lives. Take for example the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto, which resides in Loreto, Italy, a small town on the Adriatic coast. It is there that the original home of Mary is said to have been moved, either by angels or more probably by a wealthy Italian merchant, after the late 13th-century siege of Jerusalem. At this shrine we can presumably touch the same stones that Jesus touched as a boy. What a remarkable reminder that the Word was made flesh and lived among us. Pray to Our Lady of Loreto for continued reminders of God's abiding presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19 (185/689B). *"The virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us!' "*

Saturday, Dec 11, 2021

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

By the book

By the fourth century of the Christian era there were 20 or so gospels floating around the early church communities along with the familiar four. Dozens of epistles existed in addition to the 21 we now recognize. It was today's saint, Pope Damasus I (c. 305–384), who presided over the Council of Rome in 382 that determined the canon, or official list, of the Bible. He also encouraged Saint Jerome to produce a translation of the existing Greek and Hebrew texts into Latin, the common language of the day. Inexpensive versions of the Catholic *New American Bible Revised Edition* make great Christmas gifts for friends and family looking to deepen their faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time

Take Five for Faith

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Dear Padre,

My sister says that singing the *O Antiphons* are her favorite part of Advent. What are they?

An antiphon is a brief refrain, usually from the Bible, either sung or said during worship. An *O Antiphon* is an antiphon that starts with O, as in "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"—each verse of that song is made up of an O Antiphon.

The antiphons are most at home in the Liturgy of the Hours—the collection of psalms, hymns, prayers, and readings that make up the regular rhythm of the Church's prayer at morning, midday, evening, and night. The O Antiphons your sister refers to are verses used during the Church's evening prayer from December 17–23. With one verse spoken or sung before Mary's Magnificat each evening, these antiphons call on the Lord to come to his people using titles taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

JORISVO / SHUTTERSTOCK

When the O Antiphons are sung in Latin, they present a sort of acrostic with a hidden message. The first letter of each title in the antiphon spells *sarcore*, which is *ero cras* (Latin for "tomorrow I come" or "tomorrow I shall be") spelled backward.

In their original language and context, the O Antiphons have a particularly rich significance, but they remain beautiful even when sung simply in English as in the verses of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre.*

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

To prepare the way of the Lord's coming, it is necessary to take note of the requirements of conversion to which the Baptist invites us....First of all we are called to fill the "valleys" caused by coldness and indifference, opening ourselves to others with the same sentiments as Jesus, that is, with affection and fraternal attention.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, DECEMBER 9, 2018

Calendar

Monday
DECEMBER 6
Advent Weekday
Is 35:1–10
Lk 5:17–26

Tuesday
DECEMBER 7
St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Is 40:1–11
Mt 18:12–14

Wednesday
DECEMBER 8
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Gn 3:9–15, 20
Eph 1:3–6, 11–12
Lk 1:26–38

Thursday
DECEMBER 9
Advent Weekday
Is 41:13–20
Mt 11:11–15

Friday
DECEMBER 10
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17–19
Mt 11:16–19

Saturday
DECEMBER 11
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1–4, 9–11
Mt 17:9a, 10–13

Sunday
DECEMBER 12
Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14–18a
Phil 4:4–7
Lk 3:10–18

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