

Saints  
**Peter & Paul**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

902 East Ninth Street • Hopkinsville, KY 42240



Fourth Sunday of  
*Advent*



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**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

*We are a Roman Catholic Community of Christians who have come together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to give witness to Jesus Christ. Our call is to celebrate the Eucharist, to proclaim the Good News, and to grow in faith, justice, love and service to others in accordance with the Catholic tradition. Our mission is to follow Christ's example, by living the gospel and witnessing Jesus' saving presence in the world.*

**Rev. Fr. Richard Meredith, Pastor**

[crmeredith@stspchurch.org](mailto:crmeredith@stspchurch.org)

**Rev. Fr. Daniel Dillard, Parochial Vicar**

[dcdillard@stspchurch.org](mailto:dcdillard@stspchurch.org)

**PARISH OFFICE PHONE:** (270) 885-8522

**PARISH FAX:** (270) 885-5296

**PARISH WEBSITE :** [www.stspchurch.org](http://www.stspchurch.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:** 8 AM - 5 PM Monday – Friday  
(Closed Noon-1:00 pm daily)

**SCHOOL TELEPHONE:** (270) 886-0172

**SCHOOL FAX:** (270) 887-9924

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:** [www.stspschool.org](http://www.stspschool.org)

**Truth Radio** WSPP 93.5FM

Locate a church for your Vacation destination:  
[www.massimes.org](http://www.massimes.org)

**MASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Saturday evening</b> .....	5:00 PM
<b>Sunday</b> .....	8:00 AM, 10:30 AM
Misa en Español.....	2:00 PM, 10:30 AM
<b>Monday - Saturday</b> .....	8:00 AM
<b>Wednesday</b> .....	5:30 PM
<b>Holy Day Eve</b> .....	7:00 PM
<b>Day</b> .....	8 AM & 5:30 PM (7:30 PM in Spanish)

*At some weekend Masses, Nursery services for children 5 and under are provided in the Parish Center.*

December 18, 2011 • *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Please notify the Parish Office upon admission of a family member into any hospital or nursing home. Any parishioner who is ill or infirmed may request anointing by calling the Parish Office.

## PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

This is a devotion whereby members of the parish unite in taking hours of Adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament during the day and throughout the night, seven days a week. (Code required for evenings.) There is a regular schedule of adorers but all are welcome to stop in for a visit. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up for a scheduled weekly adoration time. The following hours are available: **Monday 5 pm, 4 am & 10 pm; Tuesday 4am, 7am & 8am; Wednesday 3 pm; Thursday 2 am; Saturday 12am, 2am, 6pm, 7pm & 8pm.** Please contact Lana Bastin, 839-4995, if you are interested in adopting an hour or if you could be a substitute or prayer partner.

### Parish Pastoral Council

<b>Bart Cayce</b> , Family Life.....	839-1522
<b>Scott Davis</b> , Education.....	475-3750
<b>Libby Downs</b> .....	885-8522
<b>Karen Hall</b> , Secretary.....	886-9361
<b>Sarah Kranz</b> .....	885-4677
<b>Dawn C. Ligibel</b> , Chair, Spiritual Life.....	886-9943
<b>Dana Nethery</b> , Social Concerns.....	885-5611
<b>Carl Schmidt</b> .....	885-8522
<b>Rocky Spader</b> , Vice Chair, Administration.....	886-2425
<b>Todd Sunderhaus</b> , Worship.....	874-2516

## PARISH STAFF

<b>Rich Barnett</b> (rbarnett@stspchurch.org).....	Music Director
<b>Tom Buehrle</b> .....	Director Of Stewardship
<b>Pam Carlton</b> .....	Director of Extended Care
<b>Libby Downs</b> (ljdwns@stspchurch.org).....	Pastoral Associate
<b>Judy Folz</b> (jafolz@stspchurch.org).....	Office Manager
<b>Steve Kinnard</b> (skinnard@stspchurch.org).....	Maintenance Foreman
<b>Vicki Kinnard</b> (vkinnard@stspschool.org).....	School Secretary
<b>Sarah Kranz</b> (skranz@stspschool.org).....	School Principal
<b>Angie Phillips</b> .....	St. Vincent de Paul Store Manager
<b>Carl Schmidt</b> (cschmidt@stspchurch.org).....	Hispanic Ministry
<b>Sue Wassmer</b> (swassmer@stspchurch.org).....	Parish Secretary

The Catholic Church teaches that the sexual abuse of any person is a grave moral evil. To report any instance of sexual abuse by any employee of the Catholic Church please call the Office of the Bishop in Owensboro at (270) 683-1545. The Safe Environment Program is now available at the Diocesan website [www.owensborodio.org](http://www.owensborodio.org).

### † SACRAMENTS †

† **Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard Saturday from 2:00 pm to 4:00 PM and Wednesday at 4:30 PM. Confessions will be heard any time by appointment. Confessions for Spanish speaking are 2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays at 3 PM.

† **Baptism:** Baptismal Preparation Class is usually held the first Sunday of each month. Please call the Parish Office. Registration for the class is required. **The next Baptismal Class is January 15, 2012 at 4:00 pm**

† **Marriage:** Contact the office six months prior to the desired date.

*To honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, join with us in the recitation of the rosary 40 minutes before each scheduled Mass.*

**Winners of the iPad:** At the Our Lady of Guadalupe Bilingual Mass on Monday evening, Bishop Medley pulled the winners for the Raffle offered by the Guadalupe Committee: Winners are:

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: iPad with WI-FI + 3G (32 GB) was won by Cirilo Aguilera**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$200.00 was won by Artura Beta**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$100.00 was won by Sandra and Victor Torres**

**Posadas 2011:** Las Posadas is a traditional Mexican festival which takes place from 16 December to 24 December. It commemorates the search for shelter by Mary and Joseph with a series of parties around the neighborhood. In some parts of Mexico, Las Posadas or Posadas is a major holiday, with the whole community taking part. Mexican immigrants in other parts of the world may also celebrate Las Posadas, if the immigrant community is large enough, and participation isn't restricted to Mexicans; other people in the community are certainly welcome to participate. In Spanish, *Las Posadas* means "The Inns," and during this festival, people form a procession which symbolically visits homes asking for shelter. People in the procession dress up, sing songs, and sometimes bring a burro or donkey along to represent the donkey which brought Mary into Jerusalem. One home in particular is designated as the "inn" each night, and when the procession reaches that home, the hosts welcome them in

for a Posadas party which includes music, dancing, food, and prayer. Here at Saints Peter and Paul you are invited to come and celebrate Las Posadas from December 16<sup>th</sup> thru December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. each night in the following parish family homes:

**Viernes/Friday, December 16: Guadalupe Rosas**

**Sábado/Saturday, December 17: Evelia Ocampo.**

**Domingo/Sunday, December 18: Mayra Tirado.**

**Lunes/Monday, December 19: Alma Valdez.**

**Martes/Tuesday, December 20: Rosa Oñate.**

**Miércoles/Wednesday, December 21: Mercedes Macario.**

**Jueves/Thursday, December 22: Hilda y Felipe Macario.**

**Viernes/Friday, December 23: Ana Cruz.**

**ETWN Christmas Programs:** Join EWTN this Christmas season to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. You will see LIVE Masses and events from Rome with Pope Benedict XVI, musical concerts from around the globe, animated features for children and teens, and special holiday presentations the whole family will enjoy. Tune into channel 3 on our local cable station.

## PARISH NEWS

**4th Week of Advent:** The fourth candle we light in Advent is the Candle of Love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son," the Bible says (John 3:16). It is our call to show God's love by giving gifts of love to one another. These gifts of love serve as reflections of the greatest Gift of all.

**Angel/Giving Tree:** Remember all gifts need to be wrapped and returned to the tree no later than **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> by 10:30 a.m.** Please be sure to attach the tag to the **OUTSIDE** of the wrapped package.

**Angel/Giving Tree:** We give thanks to the many of you who allowed many, many people to have a joyful Christmas. Know that our tree had 662 tags, encompassing folks from Salvation Army, Sanctuary House, our homebound and nursing home parishioners, several parish families as well as families in our Hispanic community. Thank you for reaching out to others during this Christmas season.



**RCIA** – Our RCIA Process will resume on **Thursday evening, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** May this Christmas Season fill you with God's grace and peace.

**Christmas Food Baskets:** We give thanks to all of you who donated food items for our Christmas Baskets. Know that we have touched many lives and families with our generosity and selfless giving.

**A Prayer Before Confession After a Long Absence:** I confess, Lord, it's been a while, and I feel ashamed. My guilt just seemed to get in the way, and now I've put this off for too long. Why do I let myself stay so far from you when I know in my heart that you have never left? I am afraid, Lord, that if I reveal myself to you, show you who I have become, you will not recognize me as your own. So I beg, look upon me as you would look upon your Son, Jesus, that you might see and love in me what you see and love in Christ. Then when I rise up and go to you, I shall be overwhelmed with love when I see you running to me with your arms wide open. Amen

### Important Upcoming Dates:

#### Parish Advent Penance Service:

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

#### Christmas Mass Schedule:

##### Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2011:

Children's Mass: 4:00 p.m.

Spanish Mass: 8:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass - 12:00 a.m.

##### Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, 2011

9:00 a.m. Mass

\*Please note that the Daily Mass "Feast of St. Stephen, the First Martyr" on **Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> will be held at 5:30 p.m.** - to allow our priests to visit with their families.

## PARISH NEWS CONT.

**Christmas Decorating:** Would you like to help with decorating the Church for Christmas? We will start on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Give us a call at the parish office to let us know you are coming. Many hands make the work light.



**Old Christmas Cards Needed:** We are collecting old Christmas cards (cover side only). These card covers will be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. They will recycle your old cards and make them into new ones that will later be sold. All proceeds go to St. Jude's Ranch. They also accept Thank You, Birthday, Anniversary, Get Well, Sympathy cards. You can bring your old cards to us or you can mail them directly to:

***St. Jude's Ranch for Children  
Recycled Card Program  
100 St. Jude's Street  
Boulder City, NV 89005***

**Saint Joseph and Inactive Catholics:** Don't forget to provide us with the names of family members, friends, co-workers or neighbors who you would like Fr. Richard and Fr. Daniel to invite back to Church – to celebrate Advent and Christmas with us as a Church family. Next to the statue of St. Joseph is a basket of cards for you to use.

**Special Collection:** There is a special Christmas Collection for Diocesan Good Works that will be taken at all the Christmas Masses. This special envelope is in your December packet. These funds are used to help those in need in the Owensboro Diocese and in other parts of the world. Please be generous.

**Holiday Office Hours:** The Parish Offices will be closed for the holidays from **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> through Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.** In case of an emergency, please call the parish office (885-8522) and follow the emergency prompts.



**Silver Streaks:** On Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> our Silver Streaks will meet at Saints Peter and Paul parking lot after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. They will travel to "Cracker Barrel" for breakfast and fun and fellowship. Take the time to stop and join them. You will truly be glad you did.

**Confessions:** Because Christmas falls on Saturday and Sunday this year, there is a slight change in our schedule for Confessions: This **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 and 12:00 - Noon to 1:00 p.m.** We do ask that if at all possible that we please take advantage of the Communal Reconciliation Service offered this Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> here at Saints Peter and Paul beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be 10 priests available for this service.

## PARISH NEWS

**Christmas Flower Memorial:** Donations for Christmas Decorations "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" may be made at the Parish Office, or place a check with information in an envelope and drop in the collection basket. The suggested donation is \$10.00 - \$20.00. We will publish the memorial list later after Christmas.

**PSR (Parish School of Religion)** – Pre-School thru 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes continue with their last class before Christmas this Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the School Building. After this Sunday, classes will resume on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

**St. Vincent de Paul Store:** Our St. Vincent de Paul Store is open Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The last day to shop before Christmas is Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> when the store will be closing at 2:00 p.m. The store will be closed for Christmas from December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Eucharistic Adoration:**

*"O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me." Two very short exhortations, but read assured, when you are in the Real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, Creator of the Universe, and make this your prayer. He will hear and answer. He is waiting for you. Won't you spend an hour with Him to console His Sacred Heart?*

**Hours available: Monday 5 pm, 4 am & 10 pm; Tuesday 4am, 7am & 8am; Wednesday 3 pm; Thursday 2 am; Saturday 12am, 2am, 6pm, 7pm & 8pm. Call Lana Bastin at 839-4995 to get more information on how to sign up for an hour!**

**Coming Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> thru  
Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 2012  
40 Hours – Celebrating our  
10 Year Anniversary  
of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**

*Gather around the Holy Eucharist as Families of Faith and celebrate with Solemn Exposition and Benediction.*

*Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm- Solemn Evening Prayer with Benediction*

*Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 am – Mass with Benediction*

*Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm – Mass with Benediction*

*Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 pm – Solemn Evening Prayer.*

*Closing 40 Hours with Benediction. Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration then continues.*

*As we begin a new year of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, we are encouraging new participation as Adorers and the support structure for Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration.*

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

***Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers by what you say and do, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."***  
**1 Timothy 4:12**

**Middle School Youth:** Our Middle School Youth is on Christmas Break. May this be a time of peace and joy for each of you. Our Middle School teachers will meet on Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup> as we plan for the upcoming months. Our youth will return to class on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup> with our regular schedule beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, December 18 – Angel Tree:** All gifts for the Angel Giving Tree are due by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> by 10:30 a.m. Youth will gather at 1:00 p.m. to sort these gifts. Thank you for reaching out and helping others in need.

**Cookie Making Time for Christmas:** The youth are invited to gather with us on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in our gym/kitchen. We will be making and icing cookies. We will deliver them to several of our parishioners as gifts for Christmas. Adults are needed to help with the baking and delivering. Bring your cookie batter and come join us. We promise a day of fun is to be had.

**High School Youth:** Our high school youth will gather tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the church and participate in our Advent Penance Service and then continue with a little fun. All are welcome.

**TEC#166 (Teens Encounter Christ):** High School Juniors and Seniors mark your calendars NOW! The next TEC is scheduled for Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday, February 19, 2012 at Gasper River Retreat Center. This is a life changing retreat that is a true gift to yourself. Take advantage of it. Applications are available by seeing Libby or download an application at [www.wkytec.org](http://www.wkytec.org). Once you have completed the application, please bring to Libby.

**Attention All Men:** Please look ahead and plan to attend the "Western Kentucky Catholic Men's Conference" that will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2012 at Brescia University in Owensboro from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The focus of this day will be "How to live your life as a Catholic Man." The conference will include several well known Catholic speakers: Jesse Romero, Bruce Sullivan and Richard Lane. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered to all who attend and the day will conclude with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Medley. Conference details and updates can be found online at [www.KyCatholic.com](http://www.KyCatholic.com). This conference is open to men who are high school seniors or older. The cost is \$30.00 each for adults and \$15.00 for students. You will not want to miss this opportunity.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH DECEMBER 19-25

**Mon:** No ESL Class  
**Tues:** CR- Finance Comm.-Noon  
 Church-School Christmas Musical-6:30 PM  
**Wed:** No Rosary Makers  
**School closed -1 pm (to January 3, 2012)**  
 No Choir Practice  
 No MS Youth  
**Thur:** Gym-Youth Cookie Making 9 am  
 Gainsville Visit-10 am  
 No RCIA  
**Fri:** **Offices Closed December 23-January 3**  
**Sun:** No PSR  
 No HS Youth

Readings for the Week of December 18, 2011

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
 Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38  
**Monday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25  
**Tuesday:** Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38  
**Wednesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Lk 1:39-45  
**Thursday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56  
 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66  
**Saturday:** Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
 Lk 1:67-79  
**Next Sunday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/  
 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25  
**Midnight:** Is 9:1-6/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14  
**Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20  
**Day:** Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or  
 1:1-5, 9-14

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And the angel said to her in reply, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." - Lk 1:35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD



**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 19**  
 8:00 AM JENNY RUSH  
**Tuesday, December 20**  
 8:00 AM TERRI MEANS & FAMILY  
**Wednesday, December 21**  
 8:00 AM † NANCY BUSH  
 5:30 PM BILL & JENNY RUSH  
**Thursday, December 22**  
 8:00 AM FRANKIE CIANFRANI  
**Friday, December 23**  
 8:00 AM TOM & JULIE FOLZ

MASS INTENTIONS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

**Saturday, December 24**  
 8:00 AM † MARGARAT HANRATTY  
 4:00 PM *Childrens Mass* ALL MILITARY FAMILIES  
 8:30 PM *Spanish Mass* BLESSINGS AND PROTECTION OF  
 OUR COUNTRY  
 MIDNIGHT MASS FOR ALL PARISHIONERS  
**Sunday, December 25**  
 9:00 AM ALL DIOCESAN PRIESTS

† Indicates Requiem Mass

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Honor of the Wassmer & Bailey Families

By Sue Wassmer

*We Welcome Through Baptism*

**Jaquelin Ginez DeJesus**

*Daughter of*

Heriberto Ginez Rojas

&

Maria de los Angeles DeJesus Hernandez

*And*

**Thomas Lee Larimore, III**

*Son of*

Thomas Lee Larimore, II

&

Melissa Marie Mollohan

**STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE....** IN THE FIRST READING, GOD PROMISES KING DAVID THAT HIS HOUSE AND HIS KINGDOM WILL ENDURE FOREVER. IT IS THROUGH MARY'S "YES"- "I AM THE HANDMAID OF THE LORD. LET IT BE DONE TO ME AS YOU SAY."-THAT THE PROMISE FINDS FULFILLMENT.

**BUDGET NEWS**

Weekly Parish Collection .....	\$12,674.74
Weekly Parish Budget Needs .....	\$16,113.00
\$5 Challenge Envelopes .....	\$242.00
Special Collection <i>Immaculate Conception</i> .....	\$1,254.00
Special Collection <i>Retired Religious</i> .....	\$977.00
Unpaid Bills .....	\$68,799.47
Weekly <i>Remembrance of Me</i> Donations.....	\$410.00
<i>Remembrance of Me</i> Memorial Gifts .....	\$0
<i>Remembrance of Me</i> Checking.....	\$1,045.02
New Property Loan .....	\$300,000.00
Total Principal Payments .....	\$244,000.00
Remaining Principal Balance .....	\$56,000.00

**JUST A REMINDER:** As the calendar year comes to a close, I invite everyone to review their charitable contributions. One simple way to do this is to simply go through the register of your check book and see how many checks were written to the Church or other charitable organizations (or for those like myself who use the computer for transactions, generate a report). Remember, when much is given, much is expected. Our parish is blessed with many who share their time, talent, and treasure. Let us never take for granted what God has given.

**In Need of Prayers...** Elizabeth Jones, Karen Logsdon-Covington Convalescent, Debbie Dickerson, Jeanette Elliott, Marvin Mahoney, Christine Mills—Christian Health Center, Hilda Hopper, Julia O'Brien-Littrell—Chapel House. \* Missy Adams, Marcia Ballard, Marco Baltazar, Keiko Bedor, Robert Belitsky, Corey Bingham, Serena Blane, Jennifer Boylls & Family, Maria Pia Bressan, Bobby Brockman, Angie Brooks, Joann Caenepeel, Alessandro & Lucia Cannas, Penny Cannon, Ken Carson, Myron Carter, Sam & Pat Chesnut, Frankie Tracy Cooksey, Linda Corn, Joan Cornett, Sonny Covington, Creek Family, Cadience Davis, Robert Davis, Dean Debow, David Ditzel, Jenna Dossett, Norma Downs, Vickie Drake, Alexis Dunham, Harold Edmonds, Dorothy Edson, Brandon Fennell, Bill Folz, Connie Fowler, Martha Fowler, Brilee Garrett, Jim Gawley, Rosemary Gossner, Sonja Griffith, Inga Gruver, Lela Hale Family, Paula Hall, Elizabeth Hampton, David Hyde Sr., Vince Jackson, Estelle Jarboe, Derrick Jennings & Family, Michael Johnson, Ellen Jones, Ellen Kahre, Kimberly Keane, Bernie Keldermans, 'Wimp' Kranz, Kronk Family, Henry & Hannelore Kumpfmuller, Jacob Lamirande, Mary & Don Langhi, Bob Ligi-bel, Caroline Lilly, Larena-Mendez Family, Jim Love, Jennie Maddux, June Mahoney, Clovis Martin, Raymond Martin, George McCouch, Sandy Mueller, Tim Nosbusch, Lance Nosbusch, Nicole Maynard Norsworthy, Irene Pasquin, Jennifer Patterson, Ana V. Perez, Marie Perry, Lee & Gary Phillips, Brenda Pierce, Martha Poe, Constance Pois, Jean Poor, Manuel Quiñonez, Gabby Ramos, Frank Rogers, Devin Russell, Sandi Sager, E. W. Schowe, Jr., Edna Schultz, Esther Sewell, Jim Shelton, Kristian Shouse, Oscar Slaughter, Jim Smith, Jean Soyars, Stan Spees, Stocker Family, Lana Story, Betty Sutton, Syble Tenpas, Rose Ann Tobin, Tooley Family, Ernie Tuggle, Barbara Tuly, Hannelore Vanderklok, Leoni & Delfina Vasquez, David & Carol Williams, Diane Whitson, Gloria Zuniga. **Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.**

## SCHOOL NEWS

**Mark your Calendar:** The Christmas School Musical is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the church. Please come and enjoy the voices of our children.



**Pray for our Deployed Families:**  
**Christy Allard, William Bercier, Winston Clough, Forrest Cooper, Richard Edwards, Eddie Feliciano, Stephen Irving, Mark Krammer, Pedro Mulero, Joshua Phillips, Bryan Peacock, Adrian Rushton, Tom Sanecki, Jayson Shoemake, Michal Wieladek.**

## LAY MINISTERS SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 24/25

CHRISTMAS-THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD  
**LAY MINISTERS FOR THE 4:00 PM & MIDNIGHT  
 CHRISTMAS MASSES ARE LISTED ON THE  
 INSERT PAGE**

DECEMBER 24

VIGILIA DE NAVIDAD

*Saturday, 8:30 PM Spanish Mass*

**Comentarista:** .....Ellis Salas  
**1 & 2 Lectura:** ..... Roberto Cruz, Juanita Montejos  
**Ministro E** ..... Mayra Tirado y Ana Ethridge  
**Ujieres:** ..... Shane Ethridge, Nicolás Oñate Jr.  
**Monaguillos:** ..... Mayelin Juárez y Aisha Cruz  
**Guadalupana:** ..... Erick Vázquez

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**Retrouvaille:** "Is Your Marriage Tearing You Apart?" Retrouvaille is a weekend program which helps couples to rediscover the beauty of their relationship by giving them the opportunity to re-establish communication and gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple. The weekend helps the couple discover how listening, forgiveness, communication and the dialogue process are power aids for building a loving and lasting relationship. The next Retrouvaille Weekend is scheduled for January 13-15, 2012. Brochures are available in the office or one can visit their website at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com).

**Come and See Event:** Sisters of St. Benedict, Ferdinand, Indiana – January 6-8, 2012 ... For single, Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 40. Get to know our Benedictine sisters, share in our community life and prayer, and meet other women who are considering religious life – no pressure, no commitment! For more information or to register online, visit [www.thedome.org/vocations](http://www.thedome.org/vocations), call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-734-9999 or email [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org).

**Vocations:** Just as Jesus called his disciples by name, the Diocese of Owensboro is launching an ambitious campaign to gather the names of faithful young men who may have a vocation to the priesthood. Bishop Medley is asking all Catholics in our diocese to submit the names of men who may have the qualities of future priests. We are looking for men who are high school juniors or older. We believe that our future priests will come from our own parishes and schools but we need your help to identify them. Anyone you recommend will receive good information from the Vocation Office about discerning his vocations, as well as an invitation to a discernment retreat this winter. To submit your names, e-mail [vocations@gopriesthood.org](mailto:vocations@gopriesthood.org).



## CONVERSION TO DIVINE ABUNDANCE

4<sup>th</sup> Advent

Conversion to the abundance of God in Christ may well be another name for a conversion to the awareness and welcome of God's Providence in my life. Saint Paul professed that the Lord supplied his every need. At this point in my life I can begin to see, I believe, what he meant. Paul intended and chose to surrender to Christ's will for him as an apostle. He chose to conform his life to serve with the means provided by God. He did not prepare an agenda first and then submit a budgetary prayer order to God for the means to implement his religious business plan. St. Paul did, as you well know, successfully ply his own trade as a tent maker, but success for him meant serving Christ according to the Father's will. From the fruitfulness of his labors and thanking God for gifts to him and to the church, St. Paul bore witness that God does not ration the Holy Spirit. It was in abundance, he claimed, that God supplied the needs of the Church for his will to be accomplished.

Clearly, the abundance of which I speak here is not one of earthly accumulation. God knows we and the parish churches all have material needs, and these too, by faith, will be met in sufficiency for God's will to be accomplished. The "poor in spirit" bear witness that in faith the greatest treasure is God's kingdom. And if the Lord intends that we serve him in material poverty, that will indeed be our greatest good. Conversion to the Lord's abundance, an abundance given directly by his abiding presence to us, is clearly not a theology of material prosperity. Rejecting that approach to religion, Jesus exclaimed how hard it would be for a person of wealth to enter the kingdom of God. Passing wealth, Jesus taught, is for our learning creativity, resourcefulness, and responsibility as God's stewards, so that we might be entrusted with eternal wealth.

The abundance which Christ directly supplies to those who abide in his presence are gifts and fruitfulness in the Holy Spirit, grace and virtue for building up the Body of Christ. How can there be a shortage of patience if Christ is immediately at our side and directly involved in our dilemmas? How can there be a scarcity of mercy and forgiveness if the Crucified, still bearing his wounds reaches out his hands and touches our woundedness? How can we be short of means, inadequate, and empty of faith, hope, and love, mercy, compassion, endurance, or patience? I know exactly and personally how this can be so. It is when I look only to myself or to another one of us for these needs. If it comes from you or me, despair is the only honest conclusion. But we were never meant to be the supplier of these needs. We are designed, walking with the Lord and abiding in his presence, to be the bearers and stewards of the means he alone can and does supply. No human of herself or of himself can possibly produce these spiritual resources in any measure adequate to our needs. Looking mainly to ourselves, no wonder we become so exhausted, frustrated, and resentful toward others and so full of pity toward ourselves.

Conversion in Advent time is toward our welcoming and abiding in the hidden presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ, whom we claim to expect at someday known only to the

Father, to manifest his presence in glory, power, and sovereign judgment. In this time, while truly present to us but in ways which only faith can acknowledge, Christ directly offers to supply our needs as children of the Father's kingdom, as servants and stewards of that kingdom. He refuses us the treasures demanded for the purposes of "the world, the flesh, and the devil." Why would he give us what would harm our own salvation or that of others?

I pray that we each awake this Advent to Christ's Presence and Providence. I pray that our Lord supply the perceived and pressing needs of this Parish Church, presently in no small material debt. Christ himself sets the standard in giving us himself unrestricted and completely. I hope, myself, to be generous in his gifts to me for you. If we welcome Christ, he will teach us his own abundance extended to us that God's kingdom may come. In himself and in us Christ gives his Father's providence human faces and human hands. Blessings! Fr. Richard

### Blessing for Travelers During the Upcoming Christmas Season

All powerful and merciful God,  
you led the children of Israel on dry land,  
parting the waters of the sea;  
you guided the Magi to your Son by a star.

Help our brothers and sisters  
who will travel  
during the Christmas season.  
Give them a safe journey.

Under your protection  
let them reach their destination  
and come at last  
to the eternal haven of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen!

### A Daily Advent Morning Prayer

I praise you, Lord, as I begin this day.

Keep me Faithful to you,  
for you are faithful to your people.

Shed your light on the world,  
and make us a sign of your salvation  
as we prepare the way for Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### A Daily Advent Evening Prayer

My soul rejoices in you, O Lord.

I bless you for the grace of this day,  
and ask you to watch over me through the night.

Look with favor on your servants,  
guide us to be witnesses of your  
justice, mercy, and peace  
as we prepare the way for Christ our Lord.

Amen.

No need to miss Mass when you travel. Just visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) to find a Catholic church nearby.