

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Dec. 10	\$1,825
Dec. 17	\$730

MASS SCHEDULE

(L=Living, †=Deceased)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sat. Dec. 23	5:00 PM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish
Sun. Dec. 24	9:00 AM	For †Marie Roth

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST (CHRISTMAS)

Sun. Dec. 24	6:00 PM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish
Mon. Dec. 25	9:00 AM	For †Nancy Tepe
Tue. Dec. 26	8:00 AM	For the Special Intention of Eileen Ehlman
Wed. Dec. 27	8:00 AM	For Sylvia Cooper (L)
Thur. Dec. 28	8:00 AM	For Tony Fariello (L) [NO ADORATION THIS WEEK]
Fri. Dec. 29	8:00 AM	NO PUBLIC MASS THIS WEEK

THE MOST HOLY FAMILY

Sat. Dec. 30	5:00 PM	For the Living and Deceased People of the Parish
Sun. Dec. 31	9:00 AM	For †Henrietta Zellerer

PRAYER LIST—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Verna Payne, Kate & Colton Sherold, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere’s disease, Tony Bach, Mike and Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Bonita & Jim Happe, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Larry Slusher, Roger High, Cheryl Miller, Sherry Jackson, Sarah Griphover, Jeanne Eanes, Bill Schneider (Dominion Assisted Living 4009 Siegalman Dr. Florence, KY. 41042 Room 215), Ree Wagner, Randy Goodhew, Patty Neuspickel’s son Jim, Alan Fields, Imogene Fisk, Larry Cappel, Sean Timmerding, Rodney Gurren, Maverick Orth (2 years old), Bill Edelbroich, Jim Wolfe.

BIRTHDAYS– Dec. 2-Andrea Huffman, Dec. 3-Ryder Cooper, Dec. 14-Ella Dickerson, Dec. 16-Imogene Fisk, Dec. 18-Joseph Broering, Dec. 23-Kaylynn Cooper, Dec. 24-Patty Neuspickel, Dec. 29-Megan Oldiges, Dec. 30-Michael Ryan.

ANNIVERSARY– Dec. 7-Howard and Penny Kluesener, Dec. 13-Jason and Julie Feinauer, Dec. 18-Rosanne and Bernie Rawe

ANNIVERSARY– *Please send any requests for prayers or memorials to the parish email or call to make a request. If you birthday or anniversary is not listed, let Linda know.*



SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

Pastor: Rev. Jacob Straub – Cell (859) 445-2436

Address: 13782 Decoursey Pike Morning View, KY 41063

Phone: (859) 356-6530

Fax: (859) 356-1695

Parish Email: stmatthew13782@gmail.com – Bulletin submissions by Fri. afternoon

Parish Website: stmatthewskenton.org

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays – 5:00 PM

Sundays – 9:00 AM

Weekdays – 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration: Thursdays 6-7:00 PM

Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Thursdays—6:00-6:50 PM

Parish Staff and Volunteers

Religious Education – Roseanne Rawe (859) 635-1572

Bulletin/Prayer List – Linda Fryman (859) 240-2377

Parish History/Cemetery Info – Patty Neuspickel (859) 472-2508

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2023

DPAA—We have achieved our goal!! Thanks to everyone who has given this year. Now, any DPAA donation given after meeting the goal comes directly back to St. Matthew and we do not have to pay the diocesan tax on it. Consider making an end-of-year donation through the DPAA so that it comes straight back to our parish.

KENTUCKY MARCH FOR LIFE-Join other Pro-Life Kentuckians on Tuesday, January 23 for the 2024 Kentucky March for Life & “Love them Both” Rally. The program will begin with Mass at Good Shepard Parish in Frankfort, followed by a rally at the State Capital. The event will end with a procession to the Cemetery of the Innocents in the historical Frankfort Cemetery. The Pro-Life office will be organizing buses that will leave from Northern Kentucky. If you are interested in traveling with other parishioners from the Diocese, please contact the Pro-Life Office for more information, 859-392-1500.

HOLY DAYS—A simple reminder: Christmas is a holy day of obligation every year. January 1st is NOT a holy day of obligation this year since it occurs on Monday. We will still have Mass on January 1st at 9:00 AM.

LECTOR— Dec. 24 (morning) - Bill Funke, Dec. 24 (evening)-Linda Fryman, Dec. 25 (morning) -Bernie Rawe, Dec. 31-Rita Funke, Jan. 1-Lisa Cooper

CLEANING –Dec. 10– Genita and daughters



Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

- Luke 2:4-5

FROM THE PASTOR –THE DATE OF CHRISTMAS

One of the most confounding parts of celebrating Christmas is that it is celebrated on a fixed day. Though the date changes, we celebrate Easter on a Sunday because it is the day of the Resurrection. However, Christmas has always been celebrated on December 25, no matter what day of the week it falls. It can be especially difficult on a year like this year when it is on Monday and we must attend two Masses in two days. What is so special about this date of Dec. 25?

Some will argue that Christmas is celebrated on this date as a replacement for a previously pagan Roman holiday to encourage conversion. There is a weak argument of a celebration called Saturnalia

commemorated on Dec. 17 which sometimes extended for a week to Dec. 23. However, there is no evidence from any of the Church Fathers for establishing this celebration, when there are ample anecdotes about replacing other pagan feasts with Christian ones. If it were true, though, it would be a reminder of the conquest of Christ over all the false ancient “gods” and a sign of His triumph by overtaking the formerly vulgar celebrations with His own days.



We get this date because of the established date for the celebration of Christ’s conception and death: March 25. The ancient world knew that it took nine months for a child to be fully developed from their conception, and our blessed Lord would be no different. But how does this date coincide with His sorrowful death? Early Church theologians did not have a solid record from the Apostles about when the Lord was crucified, but estimated it to happen on March 25th. An ancient Judaic tradition believed that a prophet died on the same day as he was conceived, and the early Fathers adopted this tradition with regards to Christ. So we get the date of December 25 from the date of the conception and death of Christ on March 25.

“Why don’t we just move it to Sunday, though?” some may ask. We do seem to be all too willing to move feasts to Sunday because it is convenient. However, the Church holds to the celebration of Christmas on December 25 as a reminder of the intrusion of the Word made flesh into the world. His birth impacts everything. We cannot change this date nor transfer it without losing the understanding of Christ being Lord even at birth. Come and adore Him born on Christmas Day to save you!

Fr. Jacob Straub