

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Dec. 20	TBA
Dec. 25	

Please do not forget to mail or drop off your weekly offerings for our collection.

MASS SCHEDULE

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Sat. Dec. 26	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Dec. 27	9:00 AM	For Frank Zink
Mon. Dec. 28		No Public Mass
Tue. Dec. 29	8:30 AM	Special Intentions of the Reilly Family
Wed Dec. 30	6:30 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Thur. Dec. 31	8:30 AM	For Jim Klump
Fri. Jan. 1	9:00 AM	For Mary Cross on her 98th birthday (HOLY DAY)

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Sat. Jan. 2	5:00 PM	Special Int. for the Living & Dead Members of our Parish
Sun. Jan. 3	9:00 AM	For Henrietta Zellerer

Prayer List—Jerry Ehlman, Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, Kenny Neuspickel, Kathy Barth, Charles Taylor, Ed Gripshover, Joy Sowder, Kathy Proctor, Steve Elmlinger, Sarah Hoffman, Mary Louise Cross, Cotton Teegarden, Mike Newcomb, Fr. Mario Tizziani, Jeffery Huffman, Ed Grant, Don Bornhorst, Tom Geiman, John Hofstetter, Vernon Dixon, Bill Schneider, Chris Rauf, Katie Davis, Barry Bergman, Andrew Lauck, Bradley Franzen, and everyone who has been touched by the Corona virus.

BIRTHDAYS – Dec. 29-Megan Oldiges, Dec. 30-Michael Ryan, Jan. 1-Mary Cross, Jan. 3-Christine Thorwarth, Jan. 4-Caedan Feinauer, Jan.5-Barb Dirkes, Jan. 15-Linda Fryman, Jan. 19-Justin Huffman, Jan. 20-Joe Bach, Jan. 23-Jerry Ehlman

ANNIVERSARIES – Jan. 17-Mark & Jeanne Cooper, Jan. 17-Nathan & Christine Thorwarth



SAINT MATTHEW CHURCH

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

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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 – please check each week’s schedule

Confession Times:

Saturdays – 4:00-4:50 PM

Sundays – 8:00-8:50 AM

Wed. 5:30-6:20 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 SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 27, 2020

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS – Mass will be celebrated on Friday, January 1 at 9:00 AM. This is a holy day of obligation this year.

COLLECTION FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFE JAN. 17– This collection supports Opportunities for Life, a statewide, non-profit organization founded by the four dioceses in Kentucky. This organization offers non-judgmental and confidential support to women experiencing unplanned pregnancies by helping them to recognize the many opportunities and resources that exist for those who choose life. Through a toll-free number (1-800-822-5824) that is available to callers 24 hours and seven days a week, consultants at Opportunities for Life help women find answers to many questions about abortion, pregnancy tests, STDs, adoption, parenting, medical referrals, housing, and other issues. For more information, see www.opportunitiesforlife.org. Please be as generous as you can.

MONTHLY COLLECTIONS FOR NEEDY-We will begin collecting monthly items for St. Vincent de Paul soon. They will be letting us know what is needed most and we will put out a bin in the gathering space once we take the Christmas decorations down. Thanks in advance for helping supply items for St. Vincent de Paul to distribute to local families.



FROM THE PASTOR – THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

While the non-Christian world tears down the decorations with haste as soon as possible after December 25th, the Church has only inaugurated her celebration. In fact, the immediate celebration of Christmas is not limited to one day but encompasses eight days in total. This is called the Octave celebration, from the Latin word *octava* for “eight.” This idea is a continuation of the ancient Jewish celebrations of feasts which still remains with modern Jews in the celebration of Hanukkah. Only Easter – the feast of feasts – has a similar octave of celebration, although traditionally other major solemnities had octaves as well.

The Christmas Octave includes the celebration of various saints who help us understand the significance in the Christ Child who is born on Christmas Day and how to live in the light of this momentous event. Here are the celebrations in chronological order:

- Dec 26 – Saint Stephen the Deacon and First Martyr
- Dec 27 – Saint John the Apostle and Evangelist
- Dec 28 – The Holy Innocents: the boys slaughtered by Herod in his attempt to kill the Christ (see Matthew 2:13-18)
- Dec 29 – Saint Thomas Becket of Canterbury, Bishop and Martyr
- Dec 30 (or Sunday between Christmas and New Year’s) – the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
- Dec 31 – Saint Sylvester I, Pope and Confessor
- Jan 1 – The Octave Day of Christmas and the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

These eight days of celebration help us to understand not only the immense cosmic joy at the birth of the Savior but also the immense change which this Child brings into the world. The Incarnation of the Word of God who is God the Son become man transforms us from slaves of Satan into the free children of God. Pope St. Leo I or Leo the Great (reign AD 440-461) writes well about this theme in one of his Christmas sermons.

Let us put off then the old man with his deeds: and having obtained a share in the birth of Christ let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, acknowledge your dignity, and becoming a partner in the Divine nature, refuse to return to the old baseness by degenerate conduct. Remember the Head and the Body of which you are a member. Recollect that you were rescued from the power of darkness and brought out into God's light and kingdom. By the mystery of Baptism you were made the temple of the Holy Ghost: do not put such a denizen to flight from you by base acts, and subject yourself once more to the devil's thralldom: because your purchase money is the blood of Christ, because He shall judge you in truth Who ransomed you in mercy, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us indeed continue to celebrate and welcome the Christ Child into our homes and our lives during this Christmas Octave. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Jacob Straub