

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Nov. 20	\$1,237
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MASS SCHEDULE

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sat. Nov. 26	5:00 PM	For Pauline Hughes & Jerry Nieheisel (Living)
Sun. Nov. 27	9:00 AM	For †Ellarie Glenn
Mon. Nov. 28	8:00 AM	For †Bill Brawley
Tue. Nov. 29	8:00 AM	For †Pretty Willy
Wed. Nov. 30	8:00 AM	For the Living and Deceased People of Our Parish
Thur. Dec. 1	8:00 AM	For †Bill Schlaughter (Adoration 6:00-7:00 PM)
Fri. Dec. 2	8:00 AM	For †Jeff Huffman [First Friday Mass]
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sat. Dec. 3	5:00 PM	For †Anna Menefee
Sun. Dec. 4	9:00 AM	For the Living and Deceased People of Our Parish

PRAYER LIST—Jerry & Eileen Ehlman, Sherri Moffett, Charles Taylor, Chris Rauf, Katie Davis, Barry Bergman, Andrew Lauck, Bradley Franzen, Pam Babbington, Dave Kordenbrock, Kate & Colton Sherold, Karen Reilly, Emmitt Thomas, Jeff suffering from Meniere's disease, Brian Buckingham, Tony Bach, John Jackson, Hank Bond, Hudson Feinauer, Mike and Bill Lemming, Dave Neuspickel, Kambie Perkins, Bonita and Jim Happe, Jenny McVey Alm, Dave Verst, Andy Sper, Billie Huffman, Larry Slusher, Brenda Johnson, Verna Payne, Roger High, and Rita Funke.

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

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

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—6:00-7:00 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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DPAA—Thanks be to God! We have reached and exceeded our required goal by over \$800 and everything given to the DPAA going forward will come back to St. Matthew and will not be taxed by the Diocese as are our regular collections. If you plan to give any additional funds to the church, please give them through the DPAA so we will benefit from the entire amount without assessment. Thank you to everyone who has given.

BAMBENELLI AND TREE BLESSING—On Dec. 10 from 6-8:30PM Bishop Iffert invites all to St. Mary's Park at the Cathedral Square. Bring your family and enjoy blessings, hot chocolate, home made cookies, and live choirs. Bring with you your baby Jesus from your home nativity sets or your church nativity scenes and receive a special blessing from Bishop Iffert. Please RSVP for the event online at <https://forms.office.com/r/UgPPRYM2Y>

SOCK REQUEST FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS—The CCD kids will be collecting socks for the homeless again this year for Christmas. Please bring in a few pairs of new socks for them to use for this.

GIVING TREE—Our Giving Tree for the Christmas season is now up. Please feel free to select as many gifts as you'd like to provide for our family in need this year. Please return all the gifts here by **DECEMBER 18** so we can get them to the family in time for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST & SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM—Plan now to attend our Christmas breakfast after the 9 AM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 18. The Sunday School kids are working on a program for our listening enjoyment for the event.

LECTOR— Nov. 27-Lisa Cooper, Dec. 4-Bill Funke, Dec. 18-Bernie Rawe

CLEANING—November 21-Kathy and Wanda Bach, Dec. 5-Tom and Darlene

FROM THE PASTOR—CURRENT ISSUES:TWO CHRISTMASES

This time of year seems to bring out the best and the worst in people anymore. We certainly hear of wonderful stories of giving and reuniting and cheer. However, we have all heard or seen stories about people who seem to bicker over everything in this season. Starbucks not using “Christmas” cups but “holiday” cups, the greetings wars (“Merry Christmas” or “Happy Holidays?”), and what some commentators call the “War on Christmas.” While this struggle can seem rather pointless, it does outline the growing divide in our country which produces two separate Christmases.

The first Christmas is the traditional Christian Christmas. This is the culture that has brought us everything we know and treasure about this time of year: Christmas trees and decorations, gift giving, caroling and feasting. This Christian celebration reaches its peak with the religious celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on December 25th, though the celebration does not end there. This is the culture in which everything is closed on Christmas not merely for being together with family, but for worshipping as a community of faith the birth of the Savior of the world.

Yet there is a more modern Christmas that has emerged in our day. While this one may look similar to the Christmas we know and treasure, it has begun to empty many of these customs and patterns of their greater and more religious meaning. This new holiday is the sappy and sentimental Christmas which has become saturated more with obtaining bargains and gifts rather than comfort and joy. This is the Christmas more concerned with manufacturing a false, “magical,” bourgeois gift-giver which has increasingly become a cause for doubt and skepticism in our young people instead of rejoicing in the godly witness of a saintly bishop supporting the poor and spreading the gift of the Gospel. This is the Christmas which begins at the latest on Black Friday and comes to a screeching halt on December 25th, as can even be heard with the absence of Christmas music on Christmas night (as I have sadly discovered from the radio the past few years).

We must not lose the reason for the season. Without Christ, these celebrations are vacuous attempts to fill the emptiness of this life. Let us heed the example of St. John the Baptist and pre-

pare the way for the Lord to come on Christmas. Let us especially prepare ourselves through the reception of confession, cleansing ourselves of our sins to be truly prepared and eager for the Christmas celebrations to begin in earnest so soon.



Fr. Jacob Straub