

# Blessed SACRAMENT

BECOMING STEWARDS IN COMMUNITY

## CONTENTS:

- 3 A Steward's  
Response to  
the Ultimate  
Christmas Gift
- 4 Blessed  
Sacrament's  
Youth Ministry:  
*Welcoming Our  
Young People into  
Parish Life*
- 6 *Formation*  
Transformed  
Through Christ
- 7 Our December  
Gift of the Month  
Needs HUGS

## TAKING A LOVE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

----- ON THE ROAD -----

### *THE HOMEBOUND TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY*

As Catholic Christians, we believe that God created His Church not only to nurture and guide our spiritual development, but also to unite us as a family of believers, living in community. Unfortunately, it is not always easy for individuals and couples to participate fully in the blessings of a supportive community. If someone is elderly, ill, recovering from a recent surgery, or simply without a driver's license, life can become very isolated. Here at Blessed Sacrament, our Homebound Transportation Ministry — one of the three branches of our Homebound Ministry — strives to ensure that every individual can feel like a full participant in our parish and our local community.



Parishioner Joe Peeno serves as the coordinator of the Homebound Transportation Ministry, which consists of nine volunteer drivers. The drivers provide those in need of transportation with a ride to various places — Mass, doctor and dentist appointments, and even parties! The important thing, Joe emphasizes, is that the homebound are given an opportunity to maintain their connections to the community.

"We will provide transportation for any reason, wherever someone wants to go," he says. "They can just give us a call. We are simply trying to reach out and

*continued on page 2*

## Homebound Transportation Ministry

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help people. It can be a one-time need or a regular ride to Mass — anything.”

Individuals requesting rides are usually members of our parish, but the ministry is not limited to parishioners of Blessed Sacrament.

“I think it’s important to reach out in the community,” Joe says. “We can’t be isolated as a church. We need to expand our charity to all people out there and do some good — we need to ‘walk the walk,’ as they say.”

While the homebound are certainly blessed by this special ministry — the joy on their faces often is visible when they are able to come worship in community at Mass or visit with their friends at a card party — the volunteers who provide the transportation also find that the rewards of serving in this way are truly priceless.

Joe’s motivation for participating in the Homebound Transportation Ministry is two-fold.

“I’m a people person, and I love meeting people,” he says. “Also, I’m a firm believer that when we face the Good Lord on our final day, He’s going to say, ‘What have you done for my loved ones?’ The enjoyment you get is in knowing you’re helping someone and knowing that you’re getting to be more

Christ-like by doing that.”

At times, Joe has been deeply inspired by the people he serves through the Homebound Transportation Ministry.

“Recently, I was driving an elderly gentleman and his wife to the dentist, and I came to find out that his wife has Alzheimer’s,” Joe says. “So she was one of those people that if they say something once, they will say it 12 times. It made me realize the love the husband had for this woman. He was never sharp with her, and he just handled it with great love. I saw the love between two people in their waning years and I thought, wow, I hope I have that kind of strength one day.”

Finding great joy and inspiration in their participation with the Homebound Transportation Ministry, the members of this team are truly blessed. And in turn, our community is blessed to have a group of people dedicated to providing this invaluable service to those in need.

“We’ve got great people in this ministry who are always willing to pitch in and help out,” Joe says. “You wouldn’t volunteer unless your heart wanted to do a little bit of good in this world! It’s very satisfying to do God’s work.”


*Are you or someone you know in need of transportation? Or would you like to lend your time and talent as a driver for this ministry? The time commitment is minimal and flexible — the rewards are great!  
For more information, please contact Marianne Meyer in the parish office at 859-331-4302.*

## DON'T FORGET TO RETURN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD!

*Please remember to turn in your commitment cards to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year's Stewardship Renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!*







*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## A STEWARD'S RESPONSE TO THE *Ultimate Christmas Gift*

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Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is America's favorite holiday. Consider for a moment the amount of effort we put into the holiday — decorating our homes with ornate light displays, buying boxes upon boxes of presents, addressing Christmas cards and attending seasonal get-togethers. When taken all together, it staggers the imagination. Whatever might happen to be next on the list of “favorite holidays” — Valentine's Day, Halloween or Thanksgiving — it can't hold a candle to our investment in Christmas.

Don't get me wrong — I love Christmas, too. But I'm afraid that many of us somehow miss the main reason for our Christmas celebrations.

I've sometimes heard people say things like, “Getting everything ready for Christmas becomes so hectic, I don't want to do it every year. But, you know, Christmas is really for the children.” And occasionally, I've heard or read in a letter to the editor that Christmas is about the hope that a newborn baby brings to the world. Even in the early winter, when the days are short, we can celebrate babyhood, a new human life.

Both those sentiments are wrong because they're too limited. Of course, it's true that many of our Christmas customs are for the children — we might not get to hang our stockings to be filled by Santa Claus otherwise. And it's true that the birth of a baby, any baby, brings joy and hope to all those around. Yes, many of our Christmas celebrations are centered on the children, and the birth of a child offers a promise for the future.

At Christmas, we celebrate not just any baby, but a particular baby. We celebrate His birth not because it's cute to see a baby in a manger filled

with hay and surrounded by farm animals — instead, we celebrate this birth because of Who this baby is and what He did as an adult, for *all* of us.

A human baby is certainly a wonderful creation, made in the image of God. But Jesus is more than that, not less, for He is God the Son who took on human nature in order to redeem us from the results of the sin into which we had fallen. He didn't stay a baby. He grew up and taught and preached and healed. Finally, He was put to death “for our sake” as the Creed affirms and rose from the dead. That's why we celebrate His birth more than 2,000 years later. That's why normal routines are suspended for a few joyful days each year.

In response to the gift the Father gave us with the birth of His Son, we joyfully exchange gifts with each other, share with the poor, and offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure to the Church. God gives to us — and as stewards, we must do our best to faithfully use those gifts.

A joyful and blessed Christmas to all of you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
*Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl*  
Rev. Daniel J. Vogelpohl  
Pastor

## BLESSED SACRAMENT WELCOMING OUR YOUNG

Blessed Sacrament embraces a fairly unique model for its Youth Ministry. Rosanne Thomas, Director of Religious Education, describes it as simply “not what you would expect in a typical parish.”

“Our Youth Ministry is not a separate ministry, but it is integrated into the life of the parish,” Rosanne says. “Adults who are involved in the various ministries of the parish can mentor our youth if they are open to working alongside them, inviting their participation and letting them share their gifts.”

In our parish the goal of our Youth Ministry is to welcome young people into the parish community not by planning “youth-only” events, but by encouraging their direct involvement in the life of the parish community.

“High school youth are encouraged to join the parish choir, continue as altar servers, become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and lectors, and to be involved with the many ministries within the parish,” Rosanne says. “In addition, we

try to plan a few social events for our youth each year.”

There are other informal ways the parish reaches out to its youth, such as through Deacon Jim Fortner, a campus minister at Covington Catholic High School.

“His connection with these young men at school also helps connect them with the parish,” Rosanne says.

Many of our high school girls also serve as team leaders for young girls through our parish Challenge Club.

“These leaders help run meetings and apostolic projects throughout the year,” says Michele Garvey, Assistant to the Director of Religious Education. “They also help with retreats and camps.”

This year, for the first time in recent parish history, a group from our parish of four adults and eight high school students attended the National Catholic Youth Conference, or NCYC, in Indianapolis from Nov. 21 to Nov. 23.

“Plans began last fall and our group committed



*Small groups at the 2019 Confirmation Retreat*



*High School student Sophia Laudenslayer sharing stories of her mission trip with the confirmation candidates at the retreat.*



# OUR YOUTH MINISTRY: BRINGING PEOPLE INTO PARISH LIFE

to the trip in the spring,” Michele says. “We held a ‘Wash While You Worship’ car window cleaning fundraiser to help offset costs, and the parishioners were very supportive. The parish also made a donation toward the trip costs that totaled \$534 per person.”

The theme for NCYC this year was “Blessed, Broken, Given,” and participants had the opportunity for daily Mass, adoration, confession and breakout sessions on a variety of topics.

“We were excited to be part of this event with over 20,000 other youth and adults,” Michele says. “The conference included keynote speakers Sister Bethany Madonna SV, Immaculée Ilibagiza and Mark Hart, and music guests for KING & COUNTRY.”

Each year, our high school youth also plan and lead the Confirmation retreat for our eighth-grade students. This coming year, the retreat will take place on the parish campus on Feb. 23.

After Mass and lunch, the candidates participate in a gifts assessment during which they honestly assess the gifts God has given them. With the high school students as small-group leaders, they discuss the ways their gifts can be used to build the kingdom of God, and they also look at the “shadow side” of their gifts.

“For example, someone who is giving and generous may be called to outreach ministry through soup kitchens or St. Vincent de Paul,” Rosanne says. “On the other hand, this person may tend to overextend, which leads to self-neglect, burnout or refusal to let others help. Taking an honest look at the ups and downs of our giftedness helps us to be better stewards of God’s blessings.”

Our Youth Ministry provides adults and young

people the opportunity to mentor our youth as they prepare for Confirmation and then become more active as disciples embracing Christ’s commission to “go out and make disciples of others.”

“Once confirmed, these young people are fully initiated Catholics, disciples of Christ, stewards of the Lord’s blessings,” Rosanne says. “That’s a huge responsibility, and we do all we can to help our candidates know and understand how they are to live that responsibility.”



*Youth from Blessed Sacrament Church who will be attending the National Catholic Youth Conference*

*If you would like more information about Blessed Sacrament’s Youth Ministry, please contact the Formation Office at 859-331-4302, or reach out to Rosanne Thomas at [rthomas@bscky.org](mailto:rthomas@bscky.org) or Michele Garvey at [mgarvey@bscky.org](mailto:mgarvey@bscky.org).*

# Blessed SACRAMENT

## FORMATION TRANSFORMED THROUGH CHRIST

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*“Jesus not only calls people to him but also forms them  
and sends them out in his service.”*

FROM STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE’S RESPONSE

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This month, we are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship — formation. Formation is the process of studying Christ’s teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a lifelong effort by which we “put on Christ” (Rom 13:14) and are “transformed by the renewal of our minds” (Rom 12:2).

Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to “discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God’s will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like Him — as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

Formation is not just an individual task. Instead, it is a communal responsibility that, when applied, will further help Blessed Sacrament to grow as a stewardship parish. Each one of us has an inherent need to give — to move from “selfishness to selflessness,” as the Diocese of Wichita’s document *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* aptly states.

Formation is a process of spiritual growth, and it leads to a deeper understanding of loving others as God loves us.

Naturally, then, our Catholic formation should not end upon celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, or turning 18 years old. Formation is a formidable task that we as Catholics should participate in for the duration of our lives. It involves “education of the mind and conversion of the heart” (*The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*), and helps us to lead the stewardship way of life rather than just understand it.

This Advent, why not make formation a part of your penitential renewal to Christ? Start off by reading 10 minutes of Sacred Scripture a day, or by studying a chapter of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on a daily basis. Read a biography of your favorite saint for an example of an individual who lived as a disciple of Christ, and use this person as a role model when tending to your daily tasks. Keep an eye on our weekly parish bulletin for faith formation opportunities at the parish. Before long, your commitment to formation will lead you to naturally live the Catholic faith and understand stewardship in ways that you never imagined before.





# OUR DECEMBER GIFT OF THE MONTH NEEDS HUGS

Christmas is coming, and it's a time to give HUGS.

That's right — HUGS — as our Blessed Sacrament Parish Gift of the Month.

This December, our Gift of the Month agency is Hosea House that serves the homeless population. And when you give out HUGS, you are giving **Hats, Underwear, Gloves** and **Socks**.

"The Hosea House offers a number of things for the homeless," says Rosanne Thomas, Director of Religious Education who oversees the Gift of the Month Ministry. "They provide a safe environment for men, women and children with daily nutrition in meals, necessary personal items, and health guidance. It is not a shelter."

Every month, the Gift of the Month Ministry asks parishioners to bring in specific items for an area agency.

"We have several different agencies, and work with them, and we help people in the parish know about what they do," Rosanne says. "Each month we work with a different agency. This gives us an opportunity to highlight the different agencies in the area, and help explain what they do and what they need."

The information about each agency is posted in our weekly bulletins with the announcement for each Gift of the Month. The agency's website link is also posted so anyone interested can obtain more information. Such information offers an excellent opportunity to live and practice stewardship, as well as provide an additional way to reach out to others.

"We're helping make a connection with our parishioners and make them aware of the agency," Rosanne says. "There may be more they can do, such as volunteer for that agency. It's something they can learn about and the agency's mission, and someone may

want to help."

An agency may need volunteers to help sort groceries for distribution, or to serve meals.

Another agency that Blessed Sacrament Parish often helps is Madonna House. The agency serves young, single pregnant women who have no place to go. They can live at Madonna House in a safe environment until they are prepared to care for their child or have worked through adoption arrangements.

"The agency is always in need of things," Rosanne says. "We'll put in the bulletin that there is a need for diapers, and other baby supplies. We keep bins by the church doors and people can leave donations there for Madonna House. It's as much of an educational outreach as it is collecting things for the agencies."

As each month comes to a close, and a new agency is to be chosen, Rosanne reviews which agencies have been highlighted for the Gift, and what needs are pressing. Many times the needs requested are inexpensive things, and our parish children often help with donations.

The timing for helping Hosea House with HUGS corresponds to the weather and the warmth we naturally connect with being home for the holidays.

"It's cold, and because when we have things we need, it's important to think of people who don't have them," Rosanne says. "A lot of times, I think about the people who don't have a home like I do. It makes us stop and think about that fine line that some walk between being safe and not being safe. There are people not as blessed as we, and what we have is a blessing. We need to share that."

Dedicated volunteers step forward each month to deliver the donated items to the designated agencies.

*Anyone who would like more information about the Gift of the Month may call Rosanne Thomas at 859-331-4302.*



# Blessed SACRAMENT

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**Phone: (859) 331-4302  
www.BSCKY.org**

## Christmas Schedule

**Christmas Eve:**  
4:00, 6:00 & 10:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day:**  
9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday Vigil:** 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 9:00 (with Children's Liturgy) & 11:00 a.m. | **Weekdays:** Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m., Monday - Saturday: 10:00 a.m. (When school is in session, Mass is at 8:45 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday & Friday)

**Holy Days:** 7 p.m. (prior day Vigil, excluding All Saints Day) 6:30 & 10 a.m.

**Eucharistic Exposition:** Wednesdays following Mass — Benediction to close exposition: 6:15 p.m.

### SACRAMENTAL RECONCILIATION

**Saturday:** 2:30-3:30 p.m. | **Thursday before First Friday:** 10:30 a.m. | **Third Tuesday:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.