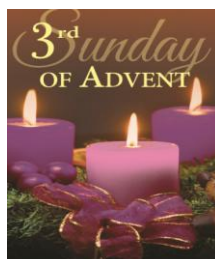


December 17, 2017
Third Sunday of Advent

Fr. Brian Buettner
Pastor



Sunday December 17

8:30 a.m. For the people of the Parish

11:00 a.m. +Larry Benke by the Benke Family
(Third Sunday of Advent)

Monday December 18 No Mass
(Weekday)

Tuesday December 19 No Mass
(Weekday)

Wednesday December 20

7:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

7:30 a.m. Holy Hour: Exposition (Adoration) of the
Blessed Sacrament w/confession

8:30 a.m. Benediction

8:45 a.m. For the needs of the children of St. Mary's School
(Weekday)

Thursday December 21

7:30 a.m. No Mass
(St. Peter Canisius)

Friday December 22

7:30 a.m. +Leslie Rowland by Anna Rowland
(Weekday)

Saturday December 23

7:30 a.m. +For the deceased members of the K of C
Council 1287 Ladies Auxiliary
(St. John of Katy)

5:00 p.m. +Cecil Pirtle by the Williams Family
(Fourth Sunday of Advent)

2017 Christmas Mass Schedule

Friday, December 22nd

7 pm – Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 24th

5 pm – Christmas Vigil Mass*

9:30 pm – Christmas Carols

10 pm – Christmas Mass at Night

Monday, December 25th

10 am – Christmas Morning Mass*

Monday, January 1st

**10 am – Mass of the Solemnity of Holy Mary,
Mother of God***

***Parish nursery is available.**



The Church office will be closed Dec 25 thru Dec 26
and will reopen Wednesday, Dec 27.

*The 2018 Calendars are available in the vestibule.
Please take one per family.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear of St. John the Baptist's profession of faith that there was "one among you whom you do not recognize... whose sandal strap [he] is not worthy to untie." As we draw closer to the little town of Bethlehem, we cannot help but get excited for what is waiting for us. There is a constant temptation within our culture to develop prideful tendencies that put ourselves before all others. We desire to be comfortable before we ever think about providing comfort and support to others. During this Advent season, let's put others before ourselves. In this way, we can follow the beautiful example of St. John the Baptist's humility.

Next weekend will be the 4th Sunday of Advent, but also Christmas Eve. As a Catholic, you are obligated to attend both the 4th Sunday of Advent Mass and a Christmas Mass. This might be a bit confusing, so hopefully the options below will clear up any confusion.

Pick one Mass to fulfill the Sunday obligation: **Saturday, December 23rd at 5:00pm** or **Sunday, December 24th at 8:30am** or **Sunday, December 24th at 11:00am.**

Pick one Mass to fulfill the Christmas Holy Day obligation: **Sunday, December 24th at 5:00pm** or **Sunday, December 24th at 10pm**, or **Monday, December 25th at 10am.**

Enjoy this season of watchful waiting and hoping in God's saving providence!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Brian



**Merry Christmas from
the Thrift Shop**

The Thrift Shop will be closed
December 18 thru January 1, 2018 and
reopen Wednesday, Jan 3, 2018

RE classes resume January 10, 2018.

Classes meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

RCIA classes resume January 4, 2018.

This class is for those who want to learn more about the
Catholic faith.

Service of Lessons & Carols:

A beautiful evening of Christmas Readings and Carols
Mark your calendars (and invite your friends!): You won't want to miss Blessed Sacrament's first-ever Service of Lessons and Carols, which will be held Friday, December 22nd, at 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners and friends in our community to hear the greatest drama ever told, with readings from Genesis, Isaiah, and the Gospels interspersed with lovely carols by our splendid local Catholic choirs. All faiths and ages are welcome!

Readings for the Week of December 17, 2017

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

Rosary...Join in praying the rosary, every

Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. in the church

Rosario...Todos están invitados a rezar

el rosario, cada miércoles a las 6:30 p.m. en la iglesia



RCIA Doctrinal instruction for Catechumens and Candidates will be on Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Parishioners wanting to continue their study of the

mysteries of our Catholic faith (mystagogy) are

always welcome. Contact is Deacon Bob Quinnett, (580) 583-0271, or robert.quinnett@icloud.com.

RCIA Breaking Open the Word will meet Sundays during the 8:30 AM Mass immediately after the homily till the end of Mass. Contact is Al Sandoval, (580) 678-3501.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

January 26-28, 2018, Oklahoma City's Catholic Pastoral Center – "All I want for Christmas is YOU!"

Are jobs, kids, and daily pressures steadily becoming more important than your relationship? Give your spouse your time and love at the next Marriage Encounter Weekend January 26-28, at the Catholic Pastoral Center, OKC.

Contact Rick & Bev Feller at 405-323-9119 or rbfeller@gmail.com for information, or apply at <http://meoklahoma.org>. Apply by January 1 to receive 25% off your \$100 application fee (promo code: EarlyJan).

Longest married couple nominations

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is looking for the longest married couple in the United States. Visit wwme.org by Jan. 10 to nominate a couple or e-mail the name of the couple, their wedding date, where they live and contact information for the person nominating to bkberland@gmail.com; or mail to Bryan and Karen Berland, 530 S. Academy, Guthrie 73044, or call (405) 850-4274. National winners will be announced in February along with 50 state winners.

Visit online at www.blessedsacramentlawton.org



John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." - Jn 1:26-27

St Mary's Catholic School

Substitute teachers are needed. Safe Environment Training is required plus three references. Apply at 611 SW A Ave or call 355-5288 for more information.

Important Dates

Tuesday, Dec 19, 11:00 am – St. Mary's Christmas Family Lunch in the School Cafeteria and Gym

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Please look at your food packages and save your box tops, and send them to St. Mary's or put them in the box on the bookcase in the vestibule of the church. This past year St. Mary's received approx \$664.00.

Let's keep up the good work this year!

Advent Day of Recollection-Young men in high school or college, who are considering the priesthood, join together for a day of prayer and reflection, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Thurs., Dec. 21. at the Catholic Pastoral Center in OKC. RSVP to (405) 721-9351 by Dec. 19.



Friday, December 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Need parish members to volunteer to help setup the Christmas decorations inside the church. Please come to help.

Retirement Fund for Religious

Religious give thanks. A religious sister writes, "When we see the generous response of so many thousands of persons in order to help us, religious men and women, we are left speechless" Senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donation to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection



"Save Time and Donate Online!"

WeShare, is an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure.

If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit blessedsacramentlawton.weshareonline.org. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call our parish office at 355-2054.

Our Weekend Mass Attendance and Offerings

December 10, 2017

Mass attendance 645

General Fund	\$5,513.00
Retired Religious Fund	\$3,163.64
Immaculate Conception Collection	\$1,417.00

All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

Third Sunday of Advent