

**Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,**

Mahatma Gandhi is the father of the nation of India. Once he was approached by a mother and her son. The mother told Gandhi that her son has a habit of eating sugar, and requested him to advise the boy that he may change his habit. Thinking for a while, Gandhi told the woman to go back home and come back in the next week with her son. The mother and her son returned to Gandhi on the following week. When they arrived, Gandhi told the mother and her son to go back home and come back on the following week. As per the request of Gandhi, the mother and her son came back to Gandhi as he requested. Again, Gandhi made a request to the mother and her son to come back on the following week again. The mother and her son came back to Gandhi and Gandhi advised the boy; *“please do not eat sugar unnecessarily.”* By hearing this advice, the mother got upset with Gandhi and shouted at him and asked; *“just to say this, you made us make three trips?”* Gandhi politely said, *“I too had the habit of eating sugar unnecessarily, before I advised your son, I wanted to make sure that I changed my habit.”*

Dear friends, the gospel today calls for a life of repentance. When Jesus is asking us to come to repentance, it gives us the message that we are all sinners. To grow in Christ, first and foremost we need humility of heart to accept the truth that ‘I am not perfect and I am a sinner.’ If I am a sinner I cannot have the experience of God and am not worthy to celebrate Christmas even, because Christmas is the celebration of the Holy Child called Jesus.

St. John Paul II says that, the tragedy of today’s world is that, *“people are losing their sense of sin.”* Mother Theresa, though she was considered a living saint during her lifetime used to make confession every day. St. Francis of Assisi, whenever he passed through a Church, he used to prostrate in front of the church and would say, *“Lord I am a sinner I am not worthy to enter into your church.”* I am sure, none of us have grown to the level of Mother Theresa or St. Francis Assisi, but why is it that we do not feel much repentance about our way of life? Today, all over the Catholic Church there is a voice crying out like this; *“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God”.* Dear Friends, Jesus is not talking about the roads from here to Owensboro or any other place, but about our own hearts and our own attitude; roads from our hearts to God and to our neighbors. Yes, this road from our hearts to God and our neighbor can be fixed only by us, not by anyone else.

If we examine the Gospel we can find that, the Mission of St. John the Baptist and Jesus were the same. Both of them preached about Repentance and today the gospel is talking to us about the same. St. John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus’ first coming and it was his duty to preach about repentance and many people followed him and repented too. Today, we are all waiting for Jesus’ second coming, and it is our duty and obligation to preach to the world about repentance. In order to do that, change should start from one’s own self. When St. John the Baptist and Jesus preached about Repentance, people repented and followed them. Now look into our own life and see, how many people are inspired by our Christian life? Most of the time, our life is lived without inspiring anyone, because we preach and teach, but do not live what we preach and teach. At the same time, St. John the Baptist, Jesus and the saints were able to inspire many souls, because they lived and preached their life to the people and it directly went into their heart and made them to repent. They lived and preached the spirit of the Lord, but we live and preach the spirit of the world often. Dear friends, if St. John the Baptist, Jesus and the saints could do this with the power of God, why can’t we; because, we too have the power of God. If we could influence the life of the other to the love of Jesus, be sure, that would be the most beautiful gift that we can give to the child Jesus for Christmas. **God Bless.**

**Book Club at St. Charles Church**

Starting December 9th there will be a monthly Book Club Meeting every second Thursday of the month at 10:30am. Sister Ann from Mount St. Joseph will be leading a study on “Jesus A Pilgrimage” by James Martin, SJ. Please join us for a unique and original glimpse into the life of Jesus not available elsewhere.

**Can You Help Pope Francis?**

The Synod of Bishops is being held in Rome in 2023. The word "synod" means "journeying together". The primary questions Pope Francis is asking all his children to reflect upon in this period of intensive listening is "How are we journeying together as a Church?" In other words, how do we experience the companionship of others and how do we accompany others along the way? In what ways can we do better?

***Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless***

**Financial Report – November 28, 2021**

<b>St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,883.56 weekly</b>	
Regular Collection	\$ 2,232.00 - 651.56
Emergency Fund	\$ 265.00
Special Collection	\$ 15.00

**Financial Report – November 28, 2021**

<b>St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,058.22 weekly</b>	
Regular Collection	\$ 1,169.00 + 110.78

**Mass Schedule**  
**December 5 – December 12**

**Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Joe Hayden*
- 10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Oma & Louis Wedding*

**Monday – Second Week of Advent**

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Alvin Bickett*

**Tuesday – St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)**

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Thomas David Scott*

**Wednesday- The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy Day of Obligation)**

- 6:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Velvin Charles Cooper*
- 6:30pm – Faith Formation

**Thursday – Second Week of Advent**

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian - *Lisa Young*
- 5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles  
*Judith Ann Howard Phelps*

**Friday – Second Week of Advent**

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*VJ Steele III*

**Saturday – Second Week of Advent**

- 3:00pm - Confession
- 4:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Marc Searcy*

**Sunday – Third Sunday of Advent**

- 8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Jacinta Tichenor Garinger*
- 10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Nora Edge Family*

**Ministry Schedule**  
**December 11, 2021**

St. Sebastian Lector: Jim Lebold

**December 12, 2021**

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Debra Hamilton  
Lector: Cathy Burden & Paula Hayden

Money Counters: Cathy Burden & Mike Dant

St. Charles Euch. Min: George Rhoades  
Lector: John Logsdon & Ann Renfrow

Money Counters: Rondy Humphrey & Mark Logsdon

**CDC Recommendations for Covid-19 Pandemic**

- All Vaccinated and Unvaccinated over the age of two are strongly recommended to wear a facemask properly.
- If you are feeling ill or concerned about exposure to the virus, be encouraged to remain home.
- Gathering spaces to be cleaned and sanitized regularly.
- Continue with proper hand washing and/or sanitizing.
- No social gatherings or meetings are permitted in the church buildings.
- Eucharistic Ministers should be masked and sanitize their hands after receiving the Eucharist.
- Please continue to be diligent.

**Your Doorbell is Ringing !**

As we begin Advent we are called to “wait” in joyful anticipation for the grace of Christmas to once again bless our lives. Wherever you live in our parish, there are poor families within a short distance of your home. When in need, they ring the rectory bell. They are, in effect, ringing your doorbell. Our food pantry is very low and we are in need of non perishable food items. Your gift in the St. Vincent de Paul collection at our parish breakfast and your gift of food will help the poor celebrate the grace of God’s love this Christmas.

**Volunteers Needed!**

We are in desperate need of a First Grade teacher for Faith Formation and subs. Also, we still need Money Counters on Sundays. Please contact Fr. Jegin if you can help.

**St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday**



- Patricia Hayden - December 6
- Andrea Searcy - December 6
- Earlene Abney – December 8
- Nathan Floyd – December 9
- Jackson Lee – December 10
- Sean Cooper – December 11

**Please Pray for our Military**

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin.

**Prayer List for Members of our Community**

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Mary Jewell, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Tommy England, Louis Dant, Becky Cheatham, Lisa Vaught, Lance Green and Neil Hayden, Serena Cooper.