

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The Gospel of today brings to us two important good news; the birth of Jesus and of St. John the Baptist. Certainly, both good news bring lots of hope and joy to the listeners, but to the receivers it is not so, because they mess up their ordinary human calculations. However, the carriers of good news were not upset and disappointed, because they believed in the promises of the Lord. Through the book of the prophet Isaiah 55:8, the Lord says, "my thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways." Again the Gospel says "For nothing will be impossible for God." The announcement of the birth of Jesus and John the Baptist certainly messed up the lives of Mary and Elizabeth, however they continued to live their faith faithfully. No doubt, today Covid-19 has messed up our lives and plans miserably and how many times we have raised questions to God and talked about it, instead of seeing a great plan of God in this miserable situation. How many times have we become upset and disappointed over the situation, forgetting the pain of God because of our way of living? Dear friends, instead of cursing God, let us believe in the promises of the Lord, that "nothing will be impossible for God."

From the Gospel we understand that to actualize those two good news to each one of us Mary and Elizabeth had to face so many obstacles/barriers in their lives. Mary was a virgin, she did not have a relationship with a man and all the more she is hailing from Nazareth-remember the comment of Nathaniel in John 1:46 "Can anything good come from Nazareth? When we come to Elizabeth, the Gospel states that she was very old and barren. Yes, Mary & Elizabeth had their own personal and social concerns, but they offered themselves to God and Mary proclaims "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" and thereby we have the good news.

As human beings everyone wants to hear good news, but did we ever think of becoming an instrument for good news in others lives, like Mary and Elizabeth? We have our own problems, difficulties, limitations and many other social concerns like Mary & Elizabeth, but at the same time it is good to remember that we have every potential to become an instrument like Mary and Elizabeth too. In the last couple of weeks, St. John the Baptist has been inviting us to polish those potentials in us through our true repentance of hearts. Now, how many of you responded to it?

We have been hearing the good news of Christmas for many years. Take a challenge this year to make this Christmas a different one, by becoming an

instrument for spreading the good news of Christmas in each other's life, by breaking the barriers of personal and social concerns. Let us join with Mary & Elizabeth and give our consent to the will of God by saying, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Thus let Jesus be born in the manger of your beautiful hearts. **God Bless you.**

Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center
Virtual Christmas Camp

Since we are unable to have an in-person Christmas Camp this year, we're taking it to Zoom! Join the Gasper River staff for 3 nights of games, talks, small group discussion, adoration (Gasper-style, of course!), and general camp craziness. We will dive into the topic "Christ is Alive!" and what it means to be young people on fire for the Resurrected Christ. Virtual Christmas Camp is for students in 8th-12th grades and is free of charge. Registration is open at [http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/!](http://www.gasperriverretreatcenter.org/)

St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary



Larry & Patricia Hardison - December 26

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday

Mark Hayden - December 21
Kashlynn Rice - December 22
Betty Bickett - December 23
Thomas Schutte - December 23

St. Charles - Happy Birthday

Darrell Bishop - December 20
Jackie Lee- December 20
Rondy Humphrey - December 22

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

Financial Report - December 13, 2020

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 5,332.00 + 2,393.91
Emergency Fund	\$ 360.00
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 25.00
Retired Religious	\$ 100.00
Diocesan Good Works	\$ 15.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 205.00

Financial Report - December 13, 2020

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 965.00 - 182.46
Emergency Fund	\$ 120.00
Retired Religious	\$ 45.00
Human Development	\$ 60.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 55.00

Mass Schedule

December 20 - 27

Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Ben Dunn
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Randy Joe Marcum

Monday - Advent Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lisa Young

Tuesday - Advent Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Bickett

Wednesday - Advent Weekday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Alvin Bickett
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles
Stella Fogle

Thursday - The Morning Mass (Christmas Eve)

-2:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Joe Hayden
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Martin Hamilton
-8:00pm - Mass at St. Charles
Audry Dit Hagan
-12:00am - Mass at St. Charles
Brian Storm

Friday - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Lee Ann Starkey

Saturday - Saint Stephen, The First Martyr (Feast)

-5:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian
Ruth Reed

Sunday - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Thomas & Bernice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Carlos Kassinger

Merry Christmas!

Please pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zarembo, 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 & Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings
Outside the Liturgy

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 25.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.
- Follow State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - o No indoor food or beverage consumption.
 - o Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - o Outside tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - o Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - o Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - o If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.

"We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another."

- Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Prayer List for members of our community:

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Stella Ibrahims, Elaine West, Lisa Jackson, Howard Hillard, Brett McPherson, Stephanie Payne, Kathy Hudson, Evelyn Drury, Teresa Jones, Ethan Settle, Tom Schutte, Kim Staples, Katherine Roberts, Patricia Hardison, Tommy England, Dennis Millay, Todd Tichenor, Patricia Hayden, Jim Lebold, Jimmy Clayton, Candace Miller, Mary Jewell, Charlie May, David Abrams, Jackie Lee, Debbie Neal, James & Paula Tichenor, Tony Calvert, Mike Dant, Alice Durbin, Jim Logsdon, Betty Bickett, John Muster, Pat Calhoun, Kyle Hicks, Kathy Owen, James Lewis Dant, Gloria Farmer, Lisa Vaught, Louis Dant, Jacinta Tichenor, Sonny Renfrow, Laurine Sexton, & Brenda Payne