

**Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,**

As we celebrate this Sunday as a rejoicing Sunday, the Gospel of today comes to us with a philosophical and a challenging question-“**who are you?**” I am sure; as an ordinary person, most of us have faced this question in different occasions of our lives, and what must have been the answer we have given to this question? I am sure most of our answers were based on our family or the job that we are doing. Assuming the role of a Christian, if we are asked this question, what would be the answer we should be giving? Being a Christian our answer should be the beginning statement of the Gospel, that is, “*A man named John was sent from God.*” Yes, you and I are sent from God. When we are bold enough to say that we are from God, be sure, our lives should be the one moving around the will of God, but is this happening?


In today’s Gospel we see St. John the Baptist is being questioned by the religious teachers of Jesus’ time namely, priests and Levites. To their question-Who are you, St. John the Baptist says-I am not Christ, I am not Elijah, & I am not a prophet. In today’s world, most of the human problems are caused by our inability to find an answer for this philosophical question-who are you OR who am I? The method to find the right answer for this question is being explained in our second reading: “*Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing, Give thanks to the Lord all time, do not quench the spirit within you, do not neglect the prophetic words, retain every good and refrain from every kind of evil.*”

One who finds answer for this philosophical question in his or her life will realize that, he or she is not different from St. John the Baptist. We read in the Gospel that, “*...John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.*” Yes, the role of every one of us is to be a powerful testimony in this world for Christ. To be a testimony and to give testimony for Christ in this world, it is important that we should have a personal experience with Christ, rather than knowledge about Christ. Once we experience Christ in our lives we will find that our role in this world is nothing but “*...make straight the way of the Lord.*” Now the first reading of today very clearly says to us why and how to make the way of the Lord straight-“*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord and a day of vindication by our God.*” This ministry is entrusted to each one of us to be administered to our brothers and sisters with the conviction that the other is my Jesus, for St. John the Baptist says “*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.*” Yes, it is a call to find Jesus among ourselves. Yes, Christmas will be meaningful only when we experience the birth of Jesus in our lives and help others to experience the same in their lives. Jesus needs to be born not in the manger of our church, but in the hearts of every one of us. If that happens in our lives let us sing together again and again –“*My soul rejoices in my God my savior.*” **God Bless You.**

**Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp & Retreat Center**  
Join Gasper River staff for a virtual Christmas Camp. Over several days, we will dive into our theme of Christ is Alive! We will have talks, small group discussions, and some virtual games! Stay tuned for dates and times.

***“In the twilight of life, God will not judge us on earthly possessions & human success, but rather how much we have loved. ”***  
- St. John of the Cross

**St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary**  
  
David & Betty Abrams - December 19

**St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday**  
Jerry Abney - December 14  
Mary Jewell - December 17  
Laura Lebold - December 18

**St. Charles - Happy Birthday**  
George Rhodes - December 13  
Christina Hudson - December 14  
Marylyne Miller - December 16  
Darrell Bishop - December 20  
Jackie Lee- December 20

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

**Financial Report - December 6, 2020**  
**St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly**

Regular Collection	\$ 3,938.00 + 999.91
Emergency Fund	\$ 630.00
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 30.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 140.00

**Financial Report - December 6, 2020**  
**St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly**

Regular Collection	\$ 1,213.00 - 65.54
Emergency Fund	\$ 120.00
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 50.00
Human Development	\$ 20.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 40.00

**Mass Schedule**  
**December 13 - 20**

**Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Joe Hayden*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Randy Joe Marcum*

**Monday - Saint John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church (Memorial)**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Meghan Bingham & Family*

**Tuesday - Advent Weekday**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Ross Richey Family*

**Wednesday - Advent Weekday**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Danny Edwards*  
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles  
*Stella Fogle*

**Thursday - Advent Weekday**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Lee Ann Starkey*

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

**Saturday - Advent Weekday**  
-5:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Justin Durbin*

**Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Ben Dunn*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Randy Joe Marcum*

**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

**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.

**Safe Environment Announcement**

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (270) 338-2240; local law enforcement (270) 273-3276; or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro’s sexual abuse policy is available on the bookshelf in back of the church, in the parish office, and the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).

**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 & Corpsman Aly Franklin