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Pastor Rev. Stef Bankemper, sbankemper@stcatherineofsiena.org Deacon Brian Cox Deacon Barry Henry

CRE – John David Kimes jdkimes@stcatherineofsiena.org

Masses for Sunday: Saturday: 4:30 p.m.; Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Tuesday: 8:30 a.m.-6:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: *5:30-6:30 p.m.(*verify schedule in bulletin under "This Week" Saturday: Following the 8:00 a.m. Mass; Anytime by Appointment.

Marriage:

One member of the couple must be a registered parishioner of St. Catherine Parish.

Call Parish Office at least six months prior to setting a wedding date.

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Communion to the Sick: Call Parish Office.

New Parishioners:
Please call the Parish Office.
Notification when leaving the parish is appreciated.

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. Drop off copy at parish or send via e-mail.

Baptism: Baptism is a joyful event "by which men and women are freed from their sins... are configured to Christ by an indelible character, and are incorporated into the Church." (Canon 849 of the Code of Canon Law). People can be baptized as adults or infants. The preparation for adult baptism takes place in the process of the catechumenate, commonly known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA. Any adult desiring baptism may call the office to begin this process. Preparation for infant baptism happens in baptism classes, generally held on the fourth Thursday evening of each month in the Parish Office. No child will be baptized at St. Catherine unless both parents have attended one of these classes in the last five years. Baptism of adults generally takes place on Holy Saturday night, while baptism of infants can take place on any Sunday. Since baptism "incorporates one into the Church," it is appropriate that the infant be baptized during a Sunday liturgy when the local Church is gathered. There are legitimate reasons for not wanting to have the baptism during a Sunday liturgy; in those cases, baptisms may be scheduled for a Sunday at 1:00 p.m.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY – January 8th

8:00 a.m. Shelby Frazer

TUESDAY – January 9th

8:00 a.m. Jim Rolf

WEDNESDAY - January 10th

5:30 p.m. Special Intention

THURSDAY - January 11th

8:00 a.m. Kevin & Sydney, Special Intention

FRIDAY – January 12th

8:30 a.m. Len Geiger

SATURDAY - January 13th

8:00 a.m. Prigge Family, Special Intention **4:30 p.m.** Members of the Parish

SUNDAY – January 14th

10:00 a.m. Bill McCarthy

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION January 13th & 14th

4:30 p.m. Cup: Kelly Hergott, Catherine Meisenhelder,

Lois Roell

Host: Sarah Meisenhelder

10:00 a.m. Cup: Peggy Birkenhauer, Kristen Gerrein,

Nathan Myers, Kathy Woltermann

Host: Jen Kirst, Doug Powrie, Linda Powrie

LECTORS January 13th & 14th

4:30 p.m. Sarah Meisenhelder

10:00 a.m. Michael Hicks

GREETERS SCHEDULE January 13th & 14th

4:30 p.m. Dee Macke

10:00 a.m. Bob & Elise Rulli, Rick Schmidt

SUNDAY COLLECTION RECAP

Will be reported next week

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

SERVERS SCHEDULE January 8th-14th

8:00 a.m. - Monday

Grant Desmond, Silas West

8:00 a.m. – Tuesday

Tommy Burkart, Selma Hansbauer

5:30 p.m. – Wednesday

Connor Stacey, Ryan Stacey

8:00 a.m. - Thursday

Lucy Gillen, Graham Gillen

8:30 a.m. – Friday

Morgan Baldwin, Colin Desmond, Alison Wagner

8:00 a.m. - Saturday

Adelise Bozeman, Carden Bozeman

4:30 p.m. – Saturday

Alex Muench, Molly Muench, Wren Twehues

10:00 a.m. - Sunday

Emily Kirst, Nathan Kirst, Natalie Kirst

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

Baptism of the Lord, Mass 8:00 a.m. American Heritage Girls, 6:30 p.m., McCrystal Hall

TUESDAY

Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Exposition, 8:30 a.m.

Kenosis, 3:30 p.m., PCMR

Confessions, 5:30 p.m.

Benediction, 6:45 p.m.

Rosary, 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Mass, 5:30 p.m.

Loreto, 6:30 p.m., McCrystal Hall

THURSDAY

Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Boosters, 7:30 p.m., McCrystal Hall

FRIDAY

Mass, 8:30 a.m.

SATURDAY

Mass, 8:00 a.m.

Confessions Immediately following Mass Mass, 4:30 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY

Mass, 10:00 a.m.

Please Pray For Our Sick

Bev Stegman, Barb Venable, Mary Kay Glaser, Carol Ewing, Tom & Mary Ann Ferring, Sherry Milleck, Peter Defoe, Kay Grothaus, Mary Vieth, Ann Basham, Bob Rulli, Cris Bear, Mary Kohrs, Larry Beiting, Mary Hoffman, Bette Riedmatter & David Garner. Also, remember all of our parishioners in nursing homes as well as those confined to their homes in your prayers.

Please Pray for the Following Soldiers Serving Our Country

William Pikar, Luke Norman, Jay Blinn, Michael Beiting, Joe Fitzgerald, Brian Clayton, Adam Beiting, Michael Dunn, Trent Moeves, James Taft III, Drew Cecil, Zack Hehman, Adam Kramer, Wolfgang Davis, Clint & Sarah Brandt, Mark Marten, Zachary Dunn and Fr. Bill Appel.

IN OUR PARISH

BAPTISM OF THE LORD – The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is on Monday, January 8th. We will have Mass at 8:00 that morning to celebrate this important feast.

PARISH WEEKLY RAFFLE WINNER

The winner for the week of December 25th was Mary Seiter. Congratulations! The winner for the week of January 1st will be reported next week.

ST. BERNARD PANTRY – The pantry is always in need of any nonperishable food items (peanut butter, cereal, pasta and sauce, canned soup, beans, etc.), paper products and hygiene items for their clients. Additionally, they need clean plastic bags for food distribution purposes to their clients. All donations are gratefully accepted and can be dropped off in the box at the Rossford entrance or Parish Office. Please be mindful of the Expiration Date or the Best Used by Date when considering your donation. If each family donated just one food item per month, what a difference we could make!

WE NEED YOU! We could use your help in making our "Let's Go To Mexico" winter fundraiser a successful night for our parish. We need volunteers to help with raffle ticket sales, silent auction, basket raffle, decorations, setup and marketing the event. Since things are always more fun in a group, consider gathering some friends together and taking on one of these tasks! Maybe your friend group could put together a basket for the basket raffle, gather items for the silent auction, take on overseeing reservations, or getting the word out to the community about the event. Any and all help is needed and greatly appreciated. Please contact Wade Smith at garrett_wade_smith@hotmail.com or call/text 859-816-2145 to volunteer.

LET'S GO TO MEXICO!

Hola mis amigos!

You are cordially invited to our 2024 Winter Fundraiser, Let's Go to Mexico! The event will be held on Saturday, January 27th at the Ft. Thomas Mess Hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Attendees will enjoy great food, drinks, music, dancing and much more. This event is a great opportunity to catch up with old friends or to meet new ones. Invite your family and friends.

DETAILS

Saturday, January 27th – Ft. Thomas Mess Hall Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

Major Raffle Drawing at 9:00 p.m.

Cost is \$65.00 per person

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

Amigo Sponsors – includes 2 admissions - \$250.00 Familia Sponsors – includes 3 admissions - \$500.00 Communidad Sponsors – includes 4 admissions –

\$750.00

Grande Sponsors – includes 5 admissions, and your own table – \$1,000.00

Especial Sponsors – includes 6 admissions, your own table, and storefront signage –

\$2,000.00

MAJOR RAFFLE

1st Prize: 5 day/4 night trip to Cancun, Mexico! Roundtrip economy airfare for two, all-inclusive resort, sunset cruise. Who doesn't need a getaway?

2nd Prize: \$10,000 Mexican Pesos (equivalent to \$575.00 USD)

3rd Prize: Dinner for two at Nada (\$150 gift card)

(Tickets available in the Parish Office)

Admission tickets, raffle tickets and sponsorships can all be purchased online through our website, <u>www.stcatherineofsiena.org</u>. Just click on the Donate tab and then WeShare.

IN OUR DIOCESE

SAVE THE DATE DIOCESAN YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS

Contact Angie Poat for information, apoat@covdio. org or visit covdio.org/youth/.

January 18, 2024 – High School Mass and Social – Location: Holy Cross Parish, Latonia, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Learn more about the Mass and worship with your peers in a vibrant faith community. All are welcome.

February 8, 2024 – THRIVE Peer Ministry Leadership Training for High School and College Leaders, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Curia. Attend as an individual peer leader or with your parish, school, music, or retreat team. Newcomers are welcome. RSVP by February 1. Together we THRIVE!

February 10, 2024 – JUNIOR HIGH CONNECT RETREAT. Calling all 6th, 7th & 8th graders to a high impact day of connecting with self, others, and God. CONNECT Retreat includes: Music, Games, Witness Talks, Adoration, Food and Fun. Led by a team of dynamic college students. RSVP by February 1. Location: TMU, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

COVINGTON YOUTH MISSIONARY TEAM

FORMING – Seeking high school peer leaders from every high school and parish in the Diocese. Team formation begins in February and missionary youth ministry service to the Diocese begins this summer. To recommend an individual, email apoat@covdio.org.

SUPPORT GROUP FOR SEPARATED AND DIVORCED – New Beginnings is an eight-week program for separated or divorced individuals, which provides an opportunity to heal and move forward despite a complicated situation. Led by facilitators who have been through their own personal losses, this program invites participants to move toward their own new beginning. The next session will be held on consecutive Thursdays – January 25, February 1, February 8, February 15, February 22, February 29, March 7, and March 14, 2024, Time: 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Elementary, 235 Division Street, Bellevue, KY. For more information, and to register, visit https://covdio.org/new-beginnings-2/.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE

July 17th-21st, 2024 in Indianapolis. Marian University (located 15 minutes from Lucas Oil Stadium) is hosting high school teens for the Conference and will house, feed, transport, mentor and accompany youth ministry groups through the Conference. This is an opportunity for youth from the Diocese of Covington, to dive deeper into their faith and journey with Catholic youth from around the country. Preregistration deadline is early January. Inquire ASAP.

MORNINGS OF REFLECTION – The 2024 dates for the Mornings of Reflection have been confirmed! Save these Saturday morning dates and give yourself the gift of a monthly mini-retreat to deepen your relationship with God and ensure you have the tools you need to follow God's will in your life.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

for all Mornings of Reflection:

9:00 a.m. Presentation on the given topic with opportunity for questions and discussion

10:00 a.m. Mass in the Church

11:00 a.m. Adoration with Confession available

LOCATIONS AND TOPICS for 2024:

Sts. Boniface & James Parish, 304 Oak Street, Ludlow.

January 20 – The Examen

February 17 – Lectio Divina

March 16 – Discernment

St. Timothy Parish, 10272 Hwy 42, Union.

April 13 – 5 Things

May 4 - 5 More Things

June 8 - 5 Last Things

St. Joseph Parish, 4011 Alexandria Pike, Cold Spring.

September 7 – The Mass

October 19 – Confession

November 9 – Call to Holiness

KENTUCKY MARCH FOR LIFE – Save the Date – Join other Pro-life Kentuckians on Tuesday, January 23rd for the 2024 Kentucky March for Life and "Love Them Both" Rally. The program will begin with Mass at Good Shepherd Parish in Frankfort, followed by a rally at the State Capitol. The event will end with a procession to the Cemetery of the Innocents in the historic Frankfort Cemetery. The Pro-life Office will be organizing buses that will leave from Northern Kentucky. If you are interested in traveling with other parishioners from the Diocese, please contact the Pro-life Office for more information at 859-392-1500.

NEVER. LOSE. HOPE. Do you have family or a friend in jail or prison? Are you looking for a safe, welcoming community where you will be accepted without judgement? Join us the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for a free support group. All are welcome! Come to Catholic Charities (3629 Church Street, Covington. For more information, contact Dave Pike at dpike@covingtoncharities.org or 859-581-8974, ext. 117.

FREE SUPPORT GROUP Parents of Addicted Loved Ones, (PAL): PAL meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Catholic Charities. It provides continuing education and support, at no charge, for parents with a son, daughter, or spouse suffering from addiction to alcohol or drugs. No cost. Just come. Catholic Charities, 3629 Church Street, Covington. For more information, contact Client Care at 859-581-8974.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Looking for the perfect Christmas gift for your spouse? Would you like to resolve to improve your relationship and communication in 2024? Give the gift of yourself, better communication and more romance. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience can be that gift and a weekend to be alone with your spouse to energize your relationship and communication in 2024. The next Marriage Encounter weekend experience is February 16-18, 2024 at Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center in Cincinnati. Apply today at https://esharing.org/applyWeekend.php. For questions or more details, contact Andy and Melanie Reinersman at 859-653-8464, application@esharing.org or visit esharing.org.

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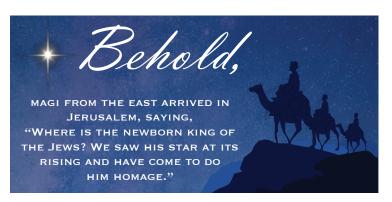
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HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Reflection on Matthew 2:1-12

The Prophet Isaiah foresees all the nations of the earth, with their wealth, streaming toward the radiant Jerusalem, which stands as a beacon of God's glory. This pilgrimage of nations begins in the Epiphany story, as the Magi from the East arrive in Jerusalem seeking this radiant glory, this Light, the newborn King of the Jews.

Naturally, the Magi go to the palace, where one expects to find royalty. But instead, as they follow the light of the star, they are led to a humble house. A birth in humble surroundings, a visitation by these exotic foreigners, a frightening flight to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous wrath – these are not the kind of great events one would expect to accompany the arrival of a new King. Yet this is precisely where God's glory and light are revealed.

We see in the Incarnation, and in all the experiences that unfold around the birth of Jesus (as well as in His life, death and Resurrection), God's determined will to bring light to darkness, hope to the oppressed, meaning to suffering, peace to turmoil, new life to death.

~ Fr. Jay

SAINT MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS

Feast Day: January 12

Patron Saint of: Poverty and Orphans

Born the sixth of 12 children in Troyes, France, Marguerite at the age of 20 believed that she was called to religious life. Her applications to the Carmelites and Poor Clares were unsuccessful. A priest friend suggested that perhaps God had other plans for her.

In 1654, the governor of the French settlement in Canada visited his sister, an Augustinian canoness in Troyes. Marguerite belonged to a sodality connected to that convent. The governor invited her to come to Canada and start a school in Ville-Marie (eventually the city of Montreal). When she arrived, the colony numbered 200 people with a hospital and a Jesuit mission chapel.

Soon after starting a school, she realized her need for coworkers. Returning to Troyes, she recruited a friend, Catherine Crolo, and two other young women. In 1667, they added classes at their school for Indian children. A second trip to France three years later resulted in six more young women and a letter from King Louis XIV, authorizing the school. The Congregation of Notre Dame was established in 1676 but its members did not make formal religious profession until 1698 when their Rule and constitutions were approved.

Marguerite established a school for Indian girls in Montreal. At the age of 69, she walked from Montreal to Quebec in response to the bishop's request to establish a community of her sisters in that city. By the time she died, she was referred to as the "Mother of the Colony." Marguerite was canonized in 1982.

It's easy to become discouraged when plans that we think that God must endorse are frustrated. Marguerite was called not to be a cloistered nun, but to be a foundress and an educator. God had not ignored her after all.

Read the full article: "Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-marguerite-bourgeoys/. (Accessed December 27, 2023).

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