



JANUARY 9, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

St. Ann Catholic Church
1503 Tracy Ave Excelsior Springs MO 64024

Pastor, Fr. Kevin Drew
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THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends: 4:00PM Saturday - 8:30AM Sunday
Daily: 8:30 AM Monday through Saturday

Mass Intentions

Sat.	Jan 8	4:00 PM	Greg Bono+
Sun	Jan 9	8:30 AM	Parishioners of St. Ann
Mon	Jan 10	8:30 AM	James Kenny
Tue	Jan 11	8:30 AM	Helen Chapman+
Wed	Jan 12	8:30 AM	Unterreiner family

Thur	Jan 13	8:30 AM	Joe Schmidt+
Fri	Jan 14	8:30 AM	Gigi Bono
Sat	Jan 15	8:30 AM	Richard Schmidt+
	Jan 15	4:00 PM	Charles Gosselin

Confessions 30 minutes prior to every Mass

OFFERING		
Jan. 2		\$4,633.25

PRAYER REQUESTS		
Bill Greim, Keith McCormack, Tim Pingell		

FROM FATHER DREW

*Wherever the Catholic sun doth shine,
There's always laughter and good red wine.
At least I've always found it so.
Benedicamus Domino! (Hilaire Belloc, d.1953.)*

We just ended Christmas, the sacred season in which we celebrated the birth of Christ, our Sun of Justice, the light who pierces the darkness. Did you have a good Christmas? That depends on another question: Did you have a good Advent?

Recall the dark days of Advent, the preparatory season that began at the end of November. I preached how Advent was once known (and God-willing will be known again) as "Little Lent." During Advent recall that clerics don the penitential color violet, the Gloria is not sung, floral arrangements are removed, and the organ (if a parish has one) may only be played to sustain singing.

The holy season of Advent is a time to meditate in the winter darkness on the two comings of Christ, first as a newborn and then again as our Just Judge. Advent then is a time to reflect on our sins – our acts of selfishness, greed, and pettiness. This reflection should naturally lead to acts of penance and mortification. It should lead to the confessional. Unfortunately, this has been lost on the great masses today who cannot seem to stomach bad news.

(continue on back)

Fr. Drew, Continued

A priest (Msgr. Pope) wrote:

... one of the great problems in the Church today is the suppression of the 'bad news.' Many in the Church [priests and bishops] prefer not to talk clearly and directly about sin. If it is mentioned at all, it is usually by way of abstractions and generalities. The paradoxical result of this suppression is not a happier Church, but a lukewarm, in some ways sadder one. Largely gone then are the religious festivals, the joyful processions, and the confident public expression of Catholic faith.

So remember this: A good Advent sets the stage for a joyful Christmas. This joy is different from the sentimentality about snow, lights, and tinsel. It is a deep, grateful joy that comes from knowing we are loved and have been rescued despite our sin. Permanent joy and salvation await us if we persevere in running the race of faith. Paradoxically, it comes from being deeply aware of our sinful condition. Make a good Advent. Listen carefully to its message: 'You need a savior!' If you deny sin, you deny the Savior. If you deny the Savior and the need for salvation, then Christmas and the cross are emptied of meaning.

If you had a bad Advent and therefore a meaningless Christmas, here is the good news: Lent starts March 2! We will put violet back on again and we will go out to the desert with Christ. We will prepare ourselves, like Christ did, spiritually and physically for our mission. Then on April 17, the Catholic sun will shine on us. We will have a joyful, festive and meaningful Easter.

Benedicamus Domino! (Let us bless the Lord!)

SAVE TAXES!

Friends, if you have financial investments that have done well this year, then give some of your dividends and or shares to St Ann. By doing so, you will avoid paying an extremely high amount of capital gain taxes. And your hard-earned money will stay local and go to God's work -- instead of government work. You can save money and help save souls at the same time!

IRA IDEAS!

If you are 70.5 years of age and need to make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) out of your IRA account, you too should give a large portion of it to St Ann. You then can avoid being taxed on some or all of the distribution.

We will have a question and answer session on a weeknight soon. Look for future announcements or see Fr Drew.

To listen to Fr Drew's homilies, go to the "Podcast" app on your phone. Search "Daily Homily Father Kevin Drew". Touch that screen and listen to current and past episodes of his homilies.

Two ways to listen to the daily Mass at St. Ann, tune into Catholic Radio 1090 AM or go to catholicradionetwork.com. Click on "Listen Live"; aired at 11:00 AM; daily homily airs Monday-Friday at 3:50 PM.



TEN COMMANDMENT TALK

Are the Ten Commandments obsolete? Or, are they still relevant? God gave us the Ten Commandments because He wants what is best for us, for our families and our relationships. Come rediscover how the Commandments are relevant every day and they give us the foundation for building strong families and close relationships. On Wednesday, **January 19th at 7:00pm** in the parish hall, lay evangelist Ed Van Buskirk of *If U Love Me* will share how the Commandments lead us to abundant joy, authentic freedom and into close relationship with Jesus and with one another.

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse: 1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and 2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and 3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Victim Assistance Coordinator, Whitney True-Francis, 816-392-0011