

**Advent Reconciliation Services:** During the season of Advent, take advantage of the many opportunities to reconcile yourself with God and one another. The Saints Peter and Paul Parish **Communal Advent Reconciliation Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th at 6:00 p.m.** If for any reason you cannot come on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, listed below are the dates and times of our sister parishes' Reconciliation Services.



*Tuesday, December 5 – St. Mark, Eddyville, 6:30 pm*

*Sunday, December 10 – St. Henry, Aurora, 1:00 pm or  
St. Michael, Oak Grove, 5:00 pm*

*Monday, December 11 – St. Joseph, Central City, 6:00 pm*

*Sunday, December 17 – St. Paul, Princeton, 2:00 pm*

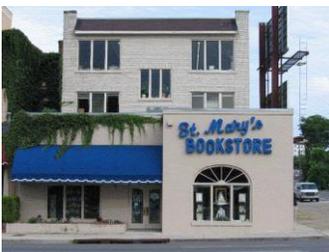
*Monday, December 18 - Christ the King, Madisonville, 6:30 pm*

*Tuesday, December 19, St. Pius X, Calvert City, 6:30 pm*

*Thursday, December 21 - St. Stephens, Cadiz, 6:30 pm*

**Struggling:** Please be aware that we have a number of parish families struggling right now. Struggling with health issues – their parents, their children, their grandchildren, their own health, with financial issues and burdens, and as the holidays come, issues of the loss of loved ones, of loneliness and changes in family traditions and customs. For many, the holidays are hard and not so joy filled. We ask for you to pray, pray for struggling families, for families in turmoil, families suffering and for those who are single and feel alone. May these families know of our prayer, of our support and most importantly of God immense love for them and their well being.

**St. Mary's Bookstore:** St. Mary's Catholic Bookstore will be with us **NEXT Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** after the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses and after the 2:00 p.m. Spanish Mass. They will be bringing many Catholic materials and items for potential Christmas gifts. If you have something in particular you are searching



for, let Libby know so she can ask them to bring these items with them.

**Retired Religious Collection:** Next weekend, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> is the annual Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. Almost 33,000 women religious and more than 5,500 men religious are past age 70. Across the United States, hundreds of religious



communities lack financial resources sufficient to meet the retirement and health-care needs of aging members. Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare. By 2026, it is projected that religious past age 70 will outnumber those under age 70 by nearly four to one. Your donation helps alleviate the spiraling costs of health care. Please be as generous as you can.

**We have another Matthew Kelly Book Coming:** This life-changing book addresses the opportunities and obstacles we encounter when we decide to ask life's BIG questions: Who am I? What am I here for? This book is full of powerful and practical lessons and Matthew Kelly shows us how to find lasting happiness in a changing world. Newly revised to reflect an even greater emphasis on spiritual growth and realizing God's dreams for us, "Perfectly Yourself" is a book for anyone who has failed at a diet, survived the collapse of a relationship, or wondered if he or she would ever find a fulfilling career. Kelly teaches us how to find the balance between accepting ourselves and striving to become all God dreams for us to become. It's a book for all of us who long to be at peace with who we are, where we are, and what we are doing, not in some distant tomorrow, but here and now today.



This book was being offered at a Christmas special rate - \$1.00 per book plus \$.50 per book for shipping so a **total of \$1.50 per book**. On Amazon, this book sells for \$10.00 per book. These books are scheduled to arrive soon – by next weekend. We are asking your help to cover the cost of these books. You can purchase a copy for yourself or a copy for a family member for Christmas. You choose. These books will be available in English and Spanish.

**LAST CHANCE! Donations for Paintsville are due by Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 – Noon in the gym.** Items may include:

- Clothing - used and new; especially sweaters and coats
- Baby items are always needed: Diapers, Receiving and crib blankets, Feeding bottles, formula
- Bed linens, comforters, blankets
- Toiletries – for men and women
- Toys – new and used; Books
- Bicycles
- Shoes, socks, hats, gloves, slippers
- Underwear – new

No big appliances please

On Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, our youth will gather in the gym at **4:00 p.m.** for the final sorting of these items and loading them in a trailer. We are in need of many helping hands to complete this awesome endeavor to St. Michael's parish in Paintsville. Thank you for your continued support of St. Michael's.

## RCIA – Rite of Cristian Initiation of Adults

Is God calling you to become Catholic? The RCIA process offers an opportunity for you to learn and ask questions about the Catholic faith. It is primarily for the un-baptized, but also involves those baptized in another faith tradition. We also invite inquiring Catholics to come and join us for a refresher on what they learned as children. **Our next session is this Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.** We will take part in the Mass for the Holy Day – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary and then continue after Mass with a discussion on apparitions and the story behind Our Lady of Guadalupe. For more information on the process, please call Libby Downs at the parish office at (270) 885-8522.



and homebound folks. We give thanks to: Alley Folz, Emma Folz, Olivia Folz, Colleen and Zachariah Allen, Lilly Jones, Alison and Vincent Bellew, Charlie Rutland, Walter Kunnmann, Caroline Long, Lupita Vieyra, Marissa and Ruben Quinonez and Amiah. We also thank our adults: Elizabeth Allen, Libbie Rutland, Kiesha Quinonez and our adult drivers and Libby.

**College Student Care Packages:** Because of your generosity, on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> we delivered 63 College Care Packages to the UPS Store for delivery. Thank you for our support.

## School News

The season of Advent is here! As we spend the next four weeks preparing for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus, we should remember the real meaning of this holy time of year.

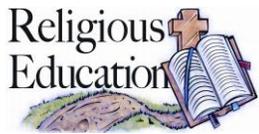
At Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School, students will share their Christmas spirit and give back to those in need. The Student Council will be collecting gifts for the Forgotten Angels Project. This project helps residents who are in "personal care homes" and sometimes suffer with a mental illness rather than with physical limitations. Many of these residents are forgotten by family, friends, and society. If you are interested in supporting this holiday project, please feel free to stop by or call the school for a list of acceptable items. We will be donating board games/activity games.

Another special undertaking is raising money for the Sanctuary House's annual Christmas Workshop. Sanctuary offers mothers and their children a safe place to stay when a crisis arises in the home. In order to raise money, we will be selling "candy grams" at school. Each "candy gram" will cost \$1 each and can be sent to a special SPPS student in your life! If you would like support this worthwhile endeavor, please stop by the school during the week of December 2-8.

As we prepare for and await the birth of Jesus, please remember that you can purchase gift (scrip) cards from SPPS. These cards make great gifts and can also be used when you do your own Christmas shopping. If you are interested in purchasing scrip cards, please stop by the Primary Center and see Ms. Donna any time before December 20th. If we don't have what you need in stock, we will be more than happy to order the cards but the deadline for special orders is December 14th. Your scrip cards will be here for Christmas!

Your continued support and prayers are greatly appreciated. Thank you for helping our students provide some joy to those who need us! Mrs. Wyatt

**Men's Discernment Retreat:** *The Men's Discernment Retreat* is a retreat for men ages 18-25 who are seriously thinking about their vocation and who have the desire to courageously give their lives to Christ. This retreat is an opportunity to set some time out in silence to listen to the voice of God in your life; receive guidance for the



## Religious Education Classes 2017-2018

**PSR (Parish School of Religion) – Pre-School thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** PSR Classes resume this Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Remember classes begin at 9:00 a.m. in the school building and conclude at 10:15 a.m.

### December Schedule – 9:00-10:15 a.m.

December 3: Class	December 10: Class
December 17: Class	December 24: No Class
December 31: No Class	Classes Resume January 7 <sup>th</sup>

## Youth Ministry

**Middle School and High School Youth - Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>:** This is a very busy night as we prepare for our annual donations to St. Michael's Parish in Paintsville. If you can come early, you can join us in the gym at **4:00 p.m.** to begin sorting and boxing up our donations. We will stop at 5:15 and go to the Church as we will celebrate Mass together and then return after Mass for the completion of this project. We need your help to complete this task. Moms and Dads, please come and help us complete this generous annual event to assist St. Michael's Parish in Paintsville, Kentucky.

### December/January Class Schedule:

Wednesday, December 6:	Paintsville Project
Wednesday, December 13:	Class
Wednesday, December 20:	Fun Night
Wednesday, December 27:	Christmas Break
Classes Resume January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	

**Thank You's**– We give thanks to all the youth and adults who helped us.

**Prepare Angel Tree Tags and College Care Packages:** Kylee Spurr; Oscar, Roberto, Estafany, Jose and Carmen Nicanor; Colleen and Elizabeth Allen, Alex and Stephen Stites, Lupita Vieyra, Alondra Hernandez and Jackie Hernandez and our adults: Heidi Wheeler, Robin Bilan and Libby Downs.

**Baked, Iced, Decorated and Boxed up Cookies for Thanksgiving:** We delivered 38 tins to our nursing home

discernment process; learn the tools of discernment, and sharpen your discerning skills. Discernment wisdom from St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Ignatius Loyola, and St. John Paul II will guide the direction of this retreat. There will be time for prayer, reflection, and rest. The Men's Discernment Retreat will be held on December 8-10 at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. There is no cost to attend but registration is necessary. Registration deadline is December 6<sup>th</sup>. For more information and to register online, contact the vocations office: 270-683-1545, [jason.mcclure@pastoral.org](mailto:jason.mcclure@pastoral.org), [www.owensborovocations.com](http://www.owensborovocations.com)

### Married Life - An Idea for Advent

**Wives:** Your husbands will face challenges, attacks, doubts, fears, stresses and temptations in life. Because we have the privilege of praying for them and all that comes their way, Will you join me in committing to praying more extensively for our husbands on a daily basis? In light of Proverbs 14:1, we need to build our house rather than tear it down. What better use of our time can it be then praying for our husbands!



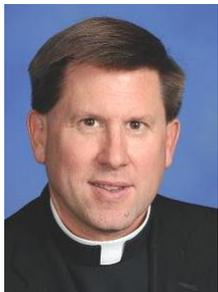
**Husbands:** When you pray for your wife, start by praying for change in yourself, and ask God to give you a clean heart. Pray that love will continue to grow between you and your wife, that you and your wife will resist the temptation to stray, and that there will be no divorce in your future.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Let marriage be held in honor among all" (Hebrews 13:4). But what does it mean to honor marriage? The word *honor* means to highly value something — to appreciate, cherish and recognize it as a priceless treasure. Matthew 6:21 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This verse suggests that honor is primarily a matter of the heart. So in marriage, it involves recognizing the beauty and worth of your relationship with your spouse and then doing something to put that recognition and appreciation into action. It's about dedication, heart and soul, to building strong foundational qualities into your marriage relationship. (Focus on the Family)

**Pope Francis has named Father J. Mark Spalding**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, to be the 12<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Nashville. The appointment was publicized at noon in Rome, 5 a.m. central time, on Tuesday November 21, 2017.

Bishop-elect Spalding will be ordained a bishop and installed as the Bishop of Nashville on February 2, 2018 at Sagrado Corazon at the Catholic Pastoral Center on McGavock Pike.

Bishop-elect Spalding, 52, a native of Fredericktown, KY and a member of a large extended



family with roots dating to the earliest days of Catholic life west of the Appalachian Mountains, was ordained to the priesthood on August 3, 1991 at the St. Joseph Proto-Cathedral in Bardstown, KY. He is a graduate of Bethlehem High School in Bardstown, KY, and St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad, Indiana. He received a master of religious studies and a licentiate in canon law from American University in Louvain, Belgium.

He is currently pastor of Holy Trinity Parish and Holy Name Parish in Louisville. He has also served as a vicar general for the archdiocese since 2011. He has served a number of other assignments including associate pastor at St. Joseph and chaplain at Bethlehem High School in Bardstown, associate pastor at St. Augustine in Lebanon, KY, associate pastor at St. Margaret Mary in Louisville, pastor of Immaculate Conception in LaGrange, KY. He has served as a judge, judicial vicar, and director of the tribunal for the archdiocese.

The entire state of Tennessee was established as the Diocese of Nashville on July 28, 1837 from the territory of the Diocese of Bardstown, KY by Pope Gregory XVI. In 1971 the western third of the state was established as the Diocese of Memphis. In 1988 the eastern third of the state was established as the Diocese of Knoxville. The Diocese of Nashville now covers 38 counties of Middle Tennessee and includes about 76,000 registered Catholics in 53 parishes and three missions. Masses are offered in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Latin, and Korean.

The See of Nashville has been vacant since Bishop David Choby died on June 3, 2017. Father Michael Johnston was elected administrator by the priests of the diocese's College of Consultors. Father Johnston will continue as administrator until Bishop-elect Spalding is ordained bishop and takes possession of the diocese.

**Catholic Men's Conference:** The Catholic Men's Conference of Western Kentucky will host their 7<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the RiverPark Center on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. The speakers this year include Christopher West, Doug Barry and Bishop William Medley. Men across the diocese may purchase a ticket by visiting [www.kycatholic.com](http://www.kycatholic.com) and clicking on the "Tickets/Donations" tab. Tickets are \$30.00 for adults and \$15.00 for students. Brochures will be available soon. All registration forms must be returned no later than Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Personal Judgement:** The faith understanding of a personal judgment after death for each of us being one of purification and completion and distinguishable from the final judgment and resurrection of all the dead is both full of hope and of mystery. The purifying aspect of this encounter with Jesus Christ as our judge is generally termed "purgatory." The outcome of the purification accepted as both a consequence of our personal deeds and

of God's undeserved mercy is called "heaven." Should the consequences of our sinful deeds accompany a final rejection of God's mercy offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then the consequence is called an eternal loss or "hell." Heaven as a final destiny of beatitude and hell as the finality of loss may be thought of as "places" by analogy of locations. Purgatory is better thought of as our standing before the Lord Jesus Christ following death in a most personal encounter with a most merciful judge whose goodness is cleansing of our sins and whose justice is a refining, fierce wrath to annihilate the evils which afflict us until we are "Holy as he is Holy." The following citations of Sacred Scripture support and express this faith of the Church and also give rise to a wealth of Christian imagination and imagery through the ages.

**Malachi 3.1-4**—*"See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiners fire and like fuller's soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years."*

**1 Corinthians 3.10-15**—*"According to the grace of God given me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid: that foundation is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay straw—the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only through fire."*

**2 Corinthians 5.10**—*"For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil."*

**Hebrews 12.29**—*"Indeed, our God is a consuming fire."* (New Revised Standard Version)

Our loving Father has always distinguished the sinner whom he loves from the sin which he detests. Even Satan knows, but detests, the fire of God's absolute love for his creature, which love rejects the evil which the free creature may espouse. In Christ the Divine love dies for the ungodly so that, should that undeserved love be accepted in repentance, that ungodly human person might become holy. For humanity, death was allowed by God as a consequence of human sin, so that we might be freed from sin in Christ and be capable of repentance, redemption, and purification, so as to be raised up a new

creation for glory and eternal beatitude. That we can be made clean and new, be purged or purified by the very holy fires of God's loving mercy, is a most joyful aspect of the excellent good news or Gospel which gives us hope as we journey to meet Christ Jesus, each day along the way and most certainly at journey's end.

Fr. Richard

**Keep In Prayer:** Let us keep in prayer, Larry Joe "Trey" Johnston III, son of Larry Joe Johnston II. Trey graduated from high school this past May and is currently at basic training at the U.S. Army Training Center at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. We know his Dad greatly misses him.



We also congratulate Dom Piffko, son of Petra Piffko and Rusty Rosencrance. Dom also graduated from high school this past May and enlisted in the Army to serve our country. Dom recently completed his Basic Training and then graduated AIT (Advanced Individual Training) and is now stationed in Ansbach, Germany.



## Community News

**Freeman Chapel C.M.E. Church** located at 137 South Virginia Street here in Hopkinsville cordially invites Saints Peter and Paul to attend a Christmas worship service entitled: "Glorious, Marvelous" Sweet Jesus. This service will be held December 10, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. This community presentation features members from various churches throughout Hopkinsville including our very own Levi and Margaret Peterson. All are welcome.

