



# Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community

**Our Parish  
COMMUNITY**

December 17, 2023

**Third Sunday of Advent (B)**

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 / John 1:6-8, 19-28



Catholic Church serving in Eastern Kentucky since 1913

**Eucharistic Services:**

7:00 pm Wednesday -  
Word & Communion Service  
5:00 pm Saturday - Holy Cross in Jackson,  
Vigil Mass  
11:30 am Sunday - Mass

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Sunday after Mass; other times by appointment.

**Office Hours: Wed - Friday 10 am to 5 pm**

**Ministers for next Sunday, Rev. Bob Dueweke**

**Ministers at MGC**

Lori Helfrich, Parish Life Director

email: lhelfrich@cdlex.org

**Mother of Good Counsel Prayer by B.J. Ewen**

Holy Mary, our heavenly mother,  
keep us in your care.

Give us your good counsel

as we strive to be disciples of your son Jesus  
and help us to grow in faith and in our love for God.  
Bless our parish which is named in your honor.  
Help us in our lives as we humbly pray and help  
us be attentive to the needs of our families and our  
community.

Amen

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lexington, KY  
Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

1310 West Main Street  
Lexington, KY 40508-2048  
Phone: (859)253.1993  
[www.cdlex.org](http://www.cdlex.org)



**Parish Mission Statement**

Inspired and sustained in our Catholic faith through life-giving worship, we Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Community, have as our mission to bring Christ and the teachings of the Catholic faith to one another and the larger community in a ways that draw us together as a supportive family, yet reaches out with a genuine concern for all people, so that we can be authentic witnesses in an area where Catholics are few in number.

329 Poplar Street. Hazard, KY 41701

Phone : (606)436.2533 | 606.233.3012 for emergency or after hours

Fax: (606) 436.0171 | [www.mgccc.org](http://www.mgccc.org)



### Becoming Catholic

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church or know someone who is? There will be class this week Decemeber 19 folowing Mass at 7:00pm. The topic for class will be an introduction to the Sacraments. Please contact Lori to register for class or if you are interested in helping with OCIA.

### Giving Tree

The giving tree ornaments are here for selction. Please take a giving tree ornament if you would like to sponsor of child this year. All presents should be returned to the parish by December 17.

### Teen Disciples

Our Teen Group will meet today Sunday Decemeber 17. Today we will be going through safe environment lesson with a Christmas Party.

### 4th Week of Advent & Christmas Mass

Next Sunday December 24, we will have Mass at 11:30 am for the 4th Sunday of Advent. Then there will be Christmas Masses at 5:30 pm and Midnight on December 25. There will not be any morning Mass on December 25.

### Religious Education

There will not be religious education again until January 7,2024. Have a blessed Chrsitmas break and we will see you all in 2024

### Annual Appeal Update

Thank you for all who donated to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We have met our financial and participation goal. If you have not participated and still wish to do so, you may still make your donation. We have had 39 of our 63 families make donations, which is more donors than we have had in previous years.

### Epiphany Party

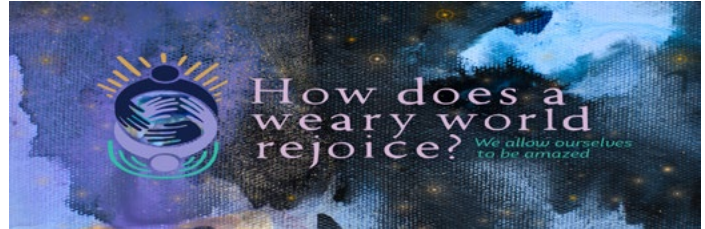
Mother of Good Counsel will celebrate the Christmas season with our annual Epiphany party on Sunday January 7. Pleases sign up to bring a dish to share.

### Advent Retreat

Thank you for all who took time to rest and be present to God's work in our lives. We still have Hope for the Holidays books available if you would like one or would like to purchase one as a gift for someone else. Cost is \$20.

### Year End Giving

Please remember any donations to be counted for 2023 must be dated December 31, 2023. You will be receiving your year end giving statement in January by email. If you wish to receive a printed copy please let Lori know.



### Third Week of Advent

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice that we are nearly to Christmas. Take time to be amazed at how God is present around us in the people and God's creation. How can we finish our preparations for Chistmas and be aware of the needs of those around us?

**ONE IN CHRIST**  
2023 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL  
Catholic Diocese of Lexington

*Participation Matters!*

**OUR PARISH PARTICIPATION GOAL:**  
50 %

**OUR PROGRESS TO DATE:**  
100 %

**OUR PARISH FINANCIAL GOAL:**  
\$ 6250

**OUR PROGRESS TO DATE:**  
\$ 8067

**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE!**

**IRA CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS/STOCK:**  
Call (859) 253-1993 for more information

**ONLINE:**  
Give online at [cdlex.org](http://cdlex.org)

**MAIL:**  
1310 West Main St.  
Lexington, KY 40508

**SCAN ME**  
Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to give online!

**A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

*The Baptist is a model for those in the Church who are called to proclaim Christ to others: they are able to do so only by detaching from themselves and from worldliness, by not attracting people to themselves but directing them toward Jesus. This is joy: directing toward Jesus. And joy must be the characteristic of our faith.*

ANGELUS, ROME, DECEMBER 13, 2020

### Upcoming Events

- 12/17 : Teen Disciples
- 12/19 : Becoming Catholic
- 12/20; Rosary, Word & Communion Service
- 12/24: Christmas Decorating



# Making Room for God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he story of John the Baptist is the story of taking a back seat to Jesus, of fading into the background so that Jesus might be the light. Fading out of the picture is something we may find ourselves doing more than once in our lives. Sometimes it's also a choice we have to make, even when it's painful.

Actor Nick Nolte talked about what it was like for him when he turned seventy; how his body would hurt and how painful it was to get out of bed some mornings. He told of how he cried when a longtime friend passed away and of the sadness death brings. But the worst part, he said, is coming to the realization that your children have grown up, are on their own, and don't need you the way they once did. His son has a family, and for him the family comes first, as it should. That's the painful part, Nolte says, the letting go of your children because they are no longer yours; in reality, they never were.

From the perspective of faith, why do we need to fade into the background? To leave room for the hand of God in life, that's why. So that God can do what God does best, and so that we don't get in the way of it all. That is a task not only at the end of life but for all of life. ●

## Reflect

*When has it been difficult for you to fade into the background?*



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## Readings for the Week

### Monday

December 18  
*Advent Weekday*

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

### Tuesday

December 19  
*Advent Weekday*

Jgs 13:2-7,  
24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

### Wednesday

December 20  
*Advent Weekday*

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

### Thursday

December 21  
*Advent Weekday*

Sg 2:8-14 or

Zep 3:14-18a

Lk 1:39-45

### Friday

December 22  
*Advent Weekday*

1 Sm 1:24-28

Lk 1:46-56

### Saturday

December 23  
*Advent Weekday*

Mal 3:1-4,  
23-24

Lk 1:57-66

### Sunday

December 24  
*Fourth Sunday  
of Advent*

2 Sm 7:1-5,  
8b-12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38



# Dear Padre,

*Was Jesus born in a stable or a cave? The Christmas scene in our church has Jesus born in a little shed, but in my friend's church it looks more like a cave. The Bible says Jesus was born in a manger, so just where was Jesus born?*

The Christmas scenes, sometimes called Nativity scenes or crèches, vary from church to church. In Scripture, we find more details about the Nativity in Luke's Gospel, but even he simply says that Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because the inn was full (Luke 2:7).

In none of the Scriptures do we have any details about what the place looked like, but since a manger is a place where caregivers feed livestock, we can assume that Jesus was born in a stable of some kind. At that time, small caves sometimes were used as stables.

Nativity scenes, though, are not an attempt to present a historically accurate picture of where Jesus was born. Rather, scenes of the birth of Jesus remind us of the special love that God shows for us in sending the Son to us. We do not care so much about creating an exact picture of what took place as we do of beholding the beauty and wonder of God born among us. ●



THE OFFICE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, ATTRIBUTED TO JACOBUS COEN

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

## Our Weekly Offering

12/10/2023

Loose: \$27

Envelopes : \$335

Immaculate Conception: \$129

Formation of Lay Ministers: \$25

Retired Religious: \$171

Online: \$140

Total Weekly Offering: \$827

## Birthdays This Week:

12/19: Joe Angel Jr.

12/23: Dewey Ritchie

## Pope Francis Prayer Intention

Intentions for December

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.



**Stay Connected  
to MGC on  
Social Media**



Mother of Good  
Counsel



Mother of  
Good Counsel

## Prayer List

Joey Napier, John Meehan, Roy Varghese, Brian Campbell, Matt Tuttle, Willie Gomez, Joe Fehribach, Louise Ayres, Charles McDaniel, Jon Latunik, Deb Night, Harvey Richardson, Delois McIntosh, Karen Davis, Zachary Hollan, Deedee Wells, Sherrian Noble, Stephanie Welch, David Napier, Martha Huggins, Roger Noyes, Willow Brockman, Tina Dawhare Fields, Valarie Maggard Dye, Marleen Combs, Robert Caldwell, Don Davis, The Rice Family, Maria Hall, Neal Boggs, Jackson Varela, Julie and Jonah Spencer, Jace Combs, Mandi Dishner, Brandon Robinson, Michael Whitaker, Thomas Stidham, Roy Pulliam Quentin Davis, Nancy Kelly, Bobby Muncy, Grayson & Kaitlin Baker, Chuck Brunty, Al Pratt, Mike Deubec, OFM, and Abby Turk.

If you know of someone who needs a pastoral visit or is in the hospital and would appreciate a visit contact the parish and let Lori know about the request.

**Prayer Family**  
**Marie Maggard**