

Collection Information for December 19

Adult: \$1,846.00

Loose: \$208.00

Remember: Online giving is an easy way to tithe to our church! Go to www.stceciliakennett.com to get started.

Monthly Calendar of Events

First Sundays of the Month: Second Collection for Mother's House in Hayti

December 24th Christmas Eve Mass at 7pm in Spanish

December 25th Christmas Mass at 9:30 in English

December 27th and 29th-no Mon/Wed adoration and mass

January 1st Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God at 9:30 (bilingual)

*Since January 1st is not a holy day of obligation (it falls on a Saturday), we'll just do one bilingual mass on the 1st at 9:30 AM.

*Fr. David is going to go home for a few days between Christmas and New Year's, so we will not have mass and adoration on the 27th and 29th.

Please pray for /Oramos para:

+Judy Abernathy, +Greg Bradley, Paul Deken, +Sandy DeLisle, +Mary Gurley, Justin Miller, Deanne Cole, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, Kathy Larsen. Especially let us remember our bishops and our priest, Fr. David, and our homebound.

Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:

Kennett Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday off,
Thursday and Friday in Portageville 10-4
Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

Mass Intentions

December 25th-26th Sandy Delisle
January 2nd Paul Deken

Saints this Week

December 27 St. John, the Apostle
December 28 The Holy Innocents

Congratulations, Alexis Valentine Moreno on your Confirmation December 12th!



St. Cecilia Catholic Church

1226 College Avenue

PO Box 306

Kennett, MO 63857

www.stceciliakennett.com

Nativity of Our Lord

December 24-26, 2021

Fr. David Baunach, Pastor 417-851-7136 davidbaunach@gmail.com

Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry (417) 496-5622

Lynnette Anderson, Parish Secretary

Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director (561) 351-1380

Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

Weekly Schedule

Monday and Wednesday Adoration at 5; Mass at 6pm

Sunday Masses: 10:30am Mass in English; 10:05am Rosary
1pm Mass in Spanish

If you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist and are unable to attend mass, please contact Fr. David at his number above.

Bishop Barron on the Nativity

Friends, today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God.

We hear at Mass one of the most magnificent passages in the Scriptures, indeed one of the gems of the Western literary tradition: the prologue to the Gospel of John. In many ways, the essential meaning of Christmas is contained in these elegantly crafted lines.

But today I would like to focus on how John commences: “In the beginning was the Word.” No first-century Jew would have missed the significance of that opening phrase, for the first word of the Hebrew Scriptures, *bereshit*, means precisely “beginning.”

The evangelist is signaling that the story he will unfold is the tale of a new creation, a new beginning. The Word, he tells us, was not only *with* God from the beginning, but indeed *was* God.

Whenever we use words, we express something of ourselves. For example, as I type these words, I’m telling you what I know about the prologue to the Johannine Gospel; when you speak to a friend, you’re telling him or her how you feel or what you’re afraid of; when an umpire shouts out a call, he’s communicating how he has assessed a play.

But God, the sheer act of Being itself, the perfect Creator of the universe, is able utterly to speak himself in one great Word, a Word that does not simply contain an aspect of his being but rather the whole of his being. This is why we say that the Word is “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God”—and this is why St. John says that the Word was God.

Reflect: “And the Word became flesh.” Once you believe Jesus is fully God and fully man, your worldview is changed and you must choose to follow or to reject him. How can you spread this Christmas message, and help people choose to follow Christ?



The Parish School of Religion Will Start January 9th at 11:45am!

In two weeks, the PSR program will begin classes for parents at 11:45am. All parents who have a child preparing for First Communion should attend as well as parents with a child in 4th grade or up who is desiring to receive Confirmation in the church.

Parents will be in classes that will help them to teach the faith to their children, while the children will have enrichment activities in the Catholic faith.

Families desiring the grace of the sacraments should be attending mass on Sundays as we draw closer to the Lord. There will be an attendance box in the vestibule where families will drop their cards each week.

Our first class will be on January 9th at 11:45am. We will be talking about the Fall of Adam and Eve and the first Good News about the coming of Christ!

If you have any questions, please see Fr. David, Vanessa, or Maggie.

The Christmas Season

In the early Church, Christians, particularly those in the East, celebrated the coming of Christ on Jan. 6. On that festive day known as Epiphany, the Church celebrated not only the Nativity but also the visitation of the Magi, the Baptism of Christ, and the wedding feast of Cana. By the fourth century, in some dioceses, both Christmas and Epiphany had been set as separate feasts. In 567, the universal Church set these feast days on Dec. 25 and Jan. 6, respectively, and named the twelve days between the feasts as the “Christmas Season.”

But the Christmas season no longer ends on January 6, because eventually, some dioceses, and eventually the entire Church, made the feast of Epiphany more solemn by adding an “octave” – an extension of the celebration for a week after the feast.

When this happened, the Christmas season no longer ended on Epiphany but continued through the octave. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord was eventually placed at the end of the octave... and now, even though there is no longer an official octave of Epiphany, the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord remained in place and the Church continued the Christmas season until the Lord’s baptism.

-Deacon John Stanley of Ascension Catholic Church in Overland, KS