

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD DECEMBER 25, 2016

### Today's Readings

Nativity of the Lord  
Is 52:7-10  
Heb1: 1-6  
Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5,9-14

### Readings for 01/01/17

Solemnity of Mary  
Nm 6:22-27  
Gal 4:4-7  
Luke 2:16-21

### MASS INTENTIONS: DEC. 26, 2016 TO Jan. 01, 2017

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Anthony & Catherine Kunkel
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Paul Goedeke Vocations to the Priesthood
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Camille Kiedrowski Health of our parishioners
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Henry & Thomas Pigg
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Stewart Family Ann Fondoulis Leo Hebert

(SI) Special Intentions (B) Birthday (A) Anniversary (H) Health

**PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Please notify the Church office if you are in need of prayer, so that we can include you in our Prayer List. Please pray for Jack Arthur, Michael Barlow, William Blackstone, Lawrence Boden, Michelle Bortmes, JoAnn Brenmeman, Roy Broyles, Aaron Carter, Mary Cochran, Kemper (Scoop) Cline, Ginger Corvin., Elaine Donahue, Kathleen Douglas, Steve Ferguson, Don Green, Gordon Gosewich, Jo Anne Heaps, Ronnie Heaps, Jill Hoffinger, David Hudson, John Hufnagel, Scott Jackson, Janet Jourdan, Michael Kraus, Kelly Lally, Candace Webb Lee, Elaine Mann, John Meilnik, Katherine Miller, Jim Mixon, Bart Mohr, Chuck & Susan Pace, Mack Palmer, Genelia Peagler, Joan Rogers, Bob Ryer, Barbara Schroll, Jodie Smithson, Jeanne Berg Stith, Shirley Suggs, Bernice Taylor, Charles & Melissa V., Theresa Wagner, Linda Webb, Michael Webb, James W. Webb, Diana Weidner, Kimberly Weidner, Marie Weller, Jim & Bev Wilson, Marie Winterling-Fogarty, Barbara Wunner.

### SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF 1/1/17

Ministry	Sat 4 pm	Sun 8 am	Sun 9:30	Sun 11:15
Priest		HK	HK	HK
Lectors		J Healy	M Krechel	M Chamberlain
EM		F Holtz	K Ayers	G Dumer
		B Nowak	J Bowman	P Era
		D Phillips	M Childress	C Era
		L Surkin	M Scarff	M Rudell
Server		A Engel	W Desmond	E Cassidy
		A Engel	E Sealy	W Cassidy
		M Rinaudo	I Warne	J Cassidy
Sacristan		B Stewart	B Oursler	W Eakes

## SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Saturday, December 31, 2016.....4:00 P.M.  
Sunday, January 1, 2017.....8, 9:30, 11:15 A.M..

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2016.  
Also, Friday, December 31, 2016.

### SUNRISE COMMUNION SERVICE

St. Mary's offers a Communion Service every Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information please contact, Mike Dodson @ 717-382-4756



### ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to have a loved one either remembered or honored with a donation of flowers please call Sue Dieter at 410-937-4035.

### Celebrations and Congratulations!!

#### Happy Birthday--80's and over

Maurice Kief	87	Dec. 24
Earl Howell	87	Dec. 25
Lawrence Knott	82	Jan. 2
Mary Stewart	84	Jan. 10
Augusta Guerriero	80	Jan. 12
Josephine Leyko	92	Jan. 12
Beverly Wilson	80	Jan. 14
Thomas Burke	87	Jan. 15
Betty Lou Knott	83	Jan. 17
Elizabeth Grier	80	Jan. 27
Robert Groff	85	Jan. 30

#### Happy Anniversary--25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> & over 50

George & Patricia Koermer	60	Dec. 26
Andrew & Naomi Welch	55	Dec. 30
Robert & Patricia Haloskey	52	Dec. 31
Cornelius & Carol Helfrich	50	Dec. 31
Joseph & Patricia Hushon	63	Jan. 2
Eugene & Rita Marsiglia	58	Jan. 10
Stephen & Rosalee Bevard	51	Jan. 15
Earl & Diana Weidner	53	Jan. 25
Douglas & Mary Washburn	50	Jan. 27

If you do not want your name(s), and/or your age in the bulletin please notify Barbara, Ext. 22.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

**If Harford Co. Schools are closed for the day ALL meetings, classes and activities are cancelled including Bingo (no make-up date).**

**If Harford Co. Schools close early ALL meetings, classes and activities are cancelled.**

**If Harford Co. Schools are delayed, all meetings, classes and activities will be held as usual, including Bingo.**

## **FROM FR. KUNKEL**

The one Christmas card that I am tempted to save each year comes to me with Merry Christmas punched in Braille under the usual greeting. It always takes me back to the time some years ago when on Christmas day I dropped in to visit a very special home. I wanted to see a little friend of mine named Pauline. Pauline was a blond, blue-eyed child of seven. The trouble was that Pauline was blind! That day she sang Christmas songs for me, and then she showed me her Christmas crib. It was uncanny to see the frail white wrist guided only by her sense of direction reach in and take out each figure without knocking the others down. "This is a wise man," then, "this is an angel. See her wings?" I asked, "what are his hands doing, Pauline?" And she answered, "His hands are folded." I thought that was pretty good for a child who had never seen folded hands and had not yet made her first holy communion.

After a while Pauline took my hand and led me over to her brilliant Christmas tree, which to her was just prickly branches in the dark, and she said in a low, pleading voice that I'll never forget: "Fr. Kunkel, why can't I see?" I don't remember exactly what I said, but I do know that if the first surprise of Christmas is the place, a lowly stable, then the second big surprise is the very helplessness of its tiny guest! All around him the skies were exploding with glittering light and glorious music, but there he lies wrapped in swaddling bands, the boundless, infinite, Almighty God, who has become a tiny, tightly confined infant! The God from whose countenance flash the jagged, yellow lightings, now lies amid sticks of common, yellow straw! The Eternal God, the one absolutely permanent being around which all life revolves, is now born as a tiny wanderer by the wayside!

Perhaps the final big surprise of Christmas is the tiny statue of the Christ-Child in the manger. In all history there is nothing like this! Stroll through the capitals of great nations, saunter through the public squares of large cities, and you will undoubtedly come upon imposing monuments of outstanding people. But did you ever see anybody honored as a tiny infant? Did you ever see anybody celebrated for what he was the very day he was born? Only Christ merited this! In Eden we were made to the image and likeness of god. But in Bethlehem god was made to our image and likeness! I do know that in the intervening years Pauline has been a superb example to the countless people who have known her. And at this time of the year she always makes me think how many people with perfectly good eyesight never really see Christmas!

I guess the only real way to actually see Christmas is to come running down from the hills with the shepherds, swing around a sudden bend in the road, and burst into the cave! There, everything is fresh and new and startling! It is something that neither we nor anyone else has ever seen before, and it is almost enough to lift us out of our shoes!

The first surprise is the stable itself! To think that here lay the end of the trail: all the hopes of four thousand years of recorded history, all the centuries of waiting, watching, wondering, - to think it should all finally lead to this - to a

straw-filled manger in a midnight cave at the end of a primitive road in the middle of nowhere! Does it not stop us in our tracks and make us want to rub our eyes? We know that God's ways are not our ways, and that it is ridiculous to measure the Almighty by the yardstick of us puny human beings, and yet who would have ever dreamed that the prophetic star would have stopped above a lowly stable?

God could not make Himself greater to impress us, so he made himself smaller to attract us! Who could fear a little child? Who could help loving a helpless infant? Consequently, now, nobody has a valid reason for running away from God! The entire swing and spirit of Christmas is toward God! Come let us adore him, adore him as though we were the very first who ever knelt beside that incredible manger. Then, even at this late date, the light from the star will leap over the miles and brighten our lives. The song of the angels will ring down from the skies and hum in our hearts. The smile of the Child will look up from the crib and gladden our souls. For, we shall not be keeping Christmas as a remote memory or as a musty routine anniversary, but as a living, personal, meeting with the little newborn Christ!

And so my dear friends, my prayer and wish for each of you is one of peace and great gladness today! I am sure I speak for our entire staff and the other priests and deacons as well. We are all deeply grateful to each one of you for your warm friendship and loyalty to us and to St. Mary's. It is our sincere wish that there will come to you and to your families a new warmth and love because you share with us the joy of this Christmas. May our hearts be filled with the very spirit of those carols once heard over Bethlehem in the Judean hills: "Glory to God in the highest . . . Now come - let us adore Him!"

## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

**Middle and High School**

**Jan. 13 Open Gym @ the Fawn Grove Rec. Center 7 - 9 pm Dodge Ball. Bring a friend**

## **FAITH FORMATION**

**R.C.I.A.:** If you know someone who would like to become a Catholic or is looking for a new church, call Janet Young at 443-421-3240 to talk about it

**Adult Education:**

Fr. Robert Barron's "Catholicism" series presented by Mr. Jeff Kline

For Faith Formation parents and all adults  
In the Hall during the Faith Formation classes  
(5:30pm T/W)

Starts Jan 3 & 4

New Episode each week (50 minutes)

Episode One: "The Revelation of God Become Man"

Discussion afterward

## Remembering Our Loved Ones

### MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below  
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear  
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas  
choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me,  
I see the pain inside your heart,  
But I am not so far away,  
We really aren't apart.*



*I sent you each a special gift,  
From my heavenly home above,  
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.*

*After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold,  
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other,  
As my father said to do,  
For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each of you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tear,  
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this  
year.*

## KEEPING THIRST IN CHRISTMAS

Poster contest winners are listed below. Each winner received a \$15 cash prize from the Knights of Columbus Mason-Dixon Council here at St. Mary. All posters are displayed in the hall for the parish to see and ponder the real meaning of the season. A BIG thank you to all who participated. Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas Season.

**Kindergarten** – Juliana Hebert  
**1st Grade** - Cooper Chenowith  
**2nd Grade** – Avery Chenowith  
**3rd Grade** – Logan Sealy  
**4th Grade** - Leo Eaton  
**5th Grade** - Jon Channell  
**6th Grade** – Ryan Mahns  
**7th Grade** - John Devereux  
**8th Grade** - Mckenna Channell

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### Time & Talent

Galatians 5:14. "The whole law found its fulfillment in this one saying: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

### Treasure – December 18, 2016

The treasure update for December 18<sup>th</sup> will be in the December 25<sup>th</sup> bulletin. As always, thank you for your generosity.

- The message of stewardship is that God's gifts, *shared*, will always be enough. Thank you for continuing to share your gifts with the parish, others and the Lord. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.
- Please consider remembering St. Mary, Pylesville **in your will**. Catholics of generations to come will thank you for your thoughtfulness and remember you in prayer.

### Contribution Statement 2016:

If you would like a contribution statement (recorded contributors only (Church Envelopes or EFT) for calendar year 2016 please call Barbara, Ext. 22, email – Barbara\_stmarys@yahoo.com or fill out this form and return to the office. Contribution statements **will not automatically be mailed. You must request one.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City, St., Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

(If you contributed to the Embracing Our Mission campaign or the Archbishop's Annual Appeal your statement will be mailed from the Archdiocese of Baltimore).

**\*\*Next Weekend: December 31<sup>st</sup> & January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Weekly Offering:** - Provides a regular predictable source of funding so the Church can meet its practical responsibilities; cost of facilities, administration, worship, salaries/benefits, religious education subsidy, ministries, and miscellaneous expenses. **(We encourage all envelope users to please use your envelopes. This will assist in decreasing the posting time.)**

**Solemnity of Mary, Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God:** Your envelope for the Holy Day can be placed in the regular offertory collection along with your weekly offering envelope.

**Chaplain at Upper Chesapeake:** All Harford County parishes will provide a portion of the salary, housing and benefits for a chaplain to attend to the patients, to anoint the sick, hear confessions and visit the sick at the Upper Chesapeake Medical Center. This "**Special envelope**" can be placed in the regular offertory collection along with your weekly offering envelope

**Poor Box: "Little Sisters of the Poor":** The Little Sisters of the Poor have been serving the vulnerable aged in our Archdiocese without interruption since 1869. They humbly beg to fill the gap between what is provided by the residents and/or government and truly what is needed for the residents to have the dignity they deserve.

# PARISH ACTIVITIES

## ST. MARY'S LUNCHEON BINGO TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017



Join in for a relaxing day of bingo and lunch. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the low price of \$10.00 include admission, lunch and a regular bingo packet of 16 games, 3 cards to a sheet. For a small additional fee special games and extra bingo packets can be purchased. Also large print bingo cards will be available upon request. The Menu for Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> is:

Chicken Pot Pie  
Neapolitan Cake Bar

The Bingo Jackpot for January is \$125.00  
in 57 numbers or less

Any special dietary requirements please contact our chef, Cheryl Hoopert 410-371-8357 at least a week in advance. Thank You.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S

Monday, December 26, 2016  
.....Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28, 2016  
7:00 p.m. ....Contemporary Music

Friday, December 30, 2016  
.....Office Closed

### Blood Drive Update

THANK YOU – 117 TIMES

Our latest Bloodmobile, Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> had 39 donors sign in – 19 of whom were members of St. Mary's. The 117 patients who will – or have already benefitted from your generosity are grateful you took the time to give them such a life saving gift.

Since we did not yet have a confirmed date for March many donors were not able to schedule their next donation. However, we do have your name and telephone or e-mail contact information and you will be called to confirm the time.

Having done this since our first time in 1985 your new contact will be Darlene Walther at 410-452-8583. Please make her introduction to scheduling easy and call her to schedule.

Thank You to all you faithful donors for an amazing 35 years. Please continue to donate if/where you can.

Thank you, Theresa Driesen

### RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

The pregnancies of the babies for Spiritual Adoption have begun. Pledge cards available in the vestibule of the church. Please take one and commit to praying for your Spiritually Adopted baby.

#### December – 2<sup>nd</sup> month

Merry Christmas from St. Mary's Respect Life Ministry! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, please remember to pray for the pre-born baby you spiritually adopted in October. Your spiritually adopted child is now two months old in gestation and needs you to pray that his/her mother awaits the birth of her child with trust in God, just as Mary awaited the birth of her Son.

Please see the following text on the 2nd "Little One" poster in the vestibule of the church:

#### Second Month (size: about 2 inches)

The developing baby is now called a 'fetus' which is Latin for 'Little One'. She is making rapid progress developing all her external and internal organs. During the second month baby teeth form; fingers and toes are developing. Ears, nose, lips and tongue can now be clearly seen. Brain waves can be recorded. The skeleton changes from cartilage to bone. Forty muscle sets begin their first exercises. This Little One can now suck her thumb. By 8 weeks all body systems are present.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### St. John the Evangelist School

**OPEN HOUSE** St. John the Evangelist School invites you to its two Open Houses in January: Sun., Jan. 29, 2017 from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm and/or Tues., Jan 31, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12 pm. Come #DiscoverThePowerOfSmall.

- ❖9:1 student: teacher ratio
- ❖Differentiated instruction
- ❖Strong infusion of faith
- ❖Foreign language instruction
- ❖Abundant extra-curriculars
- ❖Half & full day preschool options