

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 3, 2017

Today's Readings

1st Sunday of Advent
Is 63: 16-17, 19, 64: 2-7
1 Cor 1: 3-9
Mk 13: 33-37

Readings for 12/10/17

2nd Sunday of Advent
Is 40: 1-5,9:11
2 Pt 3: 8-14
Mk 1: 1-8

MASS INTENTIONS: DEC. 3, TO 10, 2017

Monday	9:00 a.m.	John Bowers Sr.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m..	Phillip S. Brown
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
HolyDay Eve	7:00 p.m.	Kathryn B. Kistler
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Pete Fritz
Holy Day	7:00 p.m.	John Roy Schmidt
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Jack Arthur
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15 a.m.	Elizabeth H. Heaps Virginia Mason Jack Reynolds

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

SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF 12/10/17

Ministry	Sat 4 pm Dec. 9	Sun 8 am Dec. 10	Sun 9:30 Dec. 10	Sun 11:15 Dec. 10
Priest	HK	HK	HK	HK
Lectors	D Logan	J Healy	B Kiedrowski	T Driesen
EM	J Kusik	A Chaney	J Bowman	C Era
	J Poole	L Surkin	K Ayers	P Era
	M Washburn	B Weber	L Hall	S Friedman
	D Phillips	F Holtz	K Kiedrowski	D Friedman
Server	H Arnett	O Ayd	K Gesla	E Cassidy
		A Engel	Z Kiedrowski	W Cassidy
		A Engel	B Kiedrowski	J Cassidy
			E Sealy	H McCarty
Sacristan	G Arnett		S Usselman	J McCarty

FROM FR. KUNKEL

Well, here it is, Advent again! Advent is always a special time of preparation. As we know, society as a whole will be gearing up toward big celebrations as we move into the Christmas shopping season. This might actually give us an advantage for Advent, because it might help us to resonate a bit more easily than usual with Advent's note of anticipation and preparation. Nevertheless, the usual challenge remains – trying to enter into the spiritual meaning of this time without being too distracted by the commercial and social dimensions of the season.

Also, the tendency of some to focus on apocalyptic threats as the end of another year approaches, might prompt us to really try harder to give all of our attention to the positive side of Advent this year! We must never forget that Advent is a time of rejoicing that Christ has actually come into our world and that redemption has, in fact, begun! Therefore, the emphasis we give to Advent this year should be based on something positive! We must commit ourselves to

concrete actions that can truly make our world a better place to live in!

Perhaps we should take a leaf out of John the Baptist's book. His preparation was not an overloading, but a stripping down, a getting rid of the baggage we carry. John suggests that we enter into a state of stillness and openness, so that we will then be ready to be filled. It is a true paradox! How do we get ready for the unknown? Our practice is often to try to out-give the great Giver. We are asked instead to let go of everything so that we may be ready to receive. We cannot have open hands if they are full of shopping lists of carefully defined hopes and expectations. We have to give access to the unknown and the unexpected coming of God into our lives and hearts!

Let us stay alert by living the values of the Redeemer in our own place and time. The memory of Jesus becomes life for us not only in the Eucharist, but when we share with others the truth and the values that Jesus so readily shared with us. His life comes alive when we bring him into the present tense! Thus, people can experience something of God's forgiveness and love through our graced struggle. Meantime, we wait. And we pray that the Lord will grant us peace "as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT THIS WEEK TO PRAY...

"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven..."

A time to be born... BAPTISM

Through the Holy Waters of Baptism, we welcome into St. Mary's Faith Community... Savannah Mae Ende, daughter of Tim & Jennifer, also Stephen Joseph Burns, son of Andrew & Sandra



A time to be ... HEAL

Please Pray For: Richard Ahlstrom, Annette Baxter, Betty Bennett, Vicki Bennington, Donald Billings, Brent Bittner, Lewis Boone, Sr. Ellen Bradley, Mary Childress, Sister Anthony Leo Cuneo, Janine Devereux, Tim Dionne, Margaret Dougherty, Susan & Amanda DiPietro, Charles Era, Eva Eakes, Steve Ferguson, Fr. Lloyd George, Christine Gofford, Jo Ann Heaps, David Hudson, Erin Huff, Jarrett Lyons, Boh Oktavec, John Ricks, Jeanne Berge Stith, Bernice, Jameson Travis, Earl Weidner, Joseph Weidner, Eliza Wilson, Mandy Wetzel, Clark Zander, Diane Zander, Lorraine Zorn.

A time to die...

"IN MEMORIAM"

May our beloved deceased rest in the Lord's eternal peace.



THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath Tradition



The word "Advent" means coming. Each year we enter into the four weeks of Advent preparing again for the coming of Jesus. We long to know Him with greater intimacy and closeness, so we prepare through penance, reflection and expressions of our longing for God.

HOME BLESSINGS FOR THE ADVENT WREATH

Each evening we say a seasonal prayer and light a candle. The flame proclaims that Jesus, the Light of the World, will soon come.

Prayers

The First Sunday of Advent, the family gathers to bless the wreath:

Lord God, we, Your people, await the coming of the Savior. Bless this wreath and grant that through its use we may better prepare for Christ's coming.

During the first week, light one purple candle at mealtime and pray:

Jesus, as we turn our minds to You, help us to focus on Your promise. Grant us the grace to repent of our sins and prepare for Your coming.

During the second week, light two purple candles at mealtime and pray:

Lord, may our hearts be set on You and Your will. Help us to always echo the words of Mary at the Annunciation, That the will of the Father may be done in our lives.

During the third week, light three candles – two purple and one rose – and pray:

Jesus, we know that you are coming soon. Our hearts rejoice that You are near. May that holy expectation lead us in the ways of your hope and love.

During the fourth week, light four candles at mealtime and pray:

Come, Lord Jesus, to each of us, to our family and to our world. We long for Your peace, joy and grace that bring new life.

This year Advent begins on December 3, 2017. We need people or families to sign-up in the vestibule of the church to light the Advent Wreath each week. Please sign-up if you would like to help

ALTAR FLOWERS

In loving memory of James Hayes on the anniversary of his death. Also donated in front of Mary on the occasion of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



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

CELEBRATIONS & CONGRATULATIONS!!

Happy Birthday--80's and over

Thomas McVan	82	Dec 9
Tina Nierwienski	90	Dec 14
Lois Fritz	80	Dec 23
Maurice Kief	88	Dec 24
Earl Howell	88	Dec 25

Happy Anniversary--25th, 50th & over 50

Mark & Kathy Walters	25	Dec 5
Tom & Barbara Burke	66	Dec 8
George & Pat Koermer	61	Dec 26
Andy & Naomi Welch	56	Dec 30
Bob & Pat Haloskey	53	Dec 31
Neil & Carol Helfrich	51	Dec 31

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

RESPECT LIFE

December 12 is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join many around the world in a novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe with prayers beginning December 4. Visit the Respect Life page at www.stmaryspylesville.org for more information.

December – 2nd 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 November. 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.

Pray for your Little One by name. If you haven't named your Spiritually Adopted baby, ask God to help you.

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.

Reconciliation/Penance Services Advent 2017 The Harford Region	
Dec. 8, - 5:30-6:30PM	St. Patrick's Havre de Grace
Dec. 11, - 7:00PM	St. Mark's, Fallston, MD
Dec. 11, -10:00AM-12:00PM & -1:00PM-3:00PM & -6:00PM-8:00PM	St. Margaret's, Bel Air, MD
Dec. 12, - 7:00PM	St. John's Chapel Hydes, MD
Dec. 12, - 7:00PM	St. Joan of Arc, Aberdeen, MD
Dec. 16, - 10:00AM	Holy Spirit Church Joppa
Dec. 18, -9:30AM & -7:00PM	St. Mary's, Pylesville, MD
Dec. 18, - 7:00PM	St. Ignatius, Forest Hill, MD
Dec. 19, -7:00PM	St. Mary's, Pylesville, MD
Dec. 19, -7:00PM-8:00PM	St. Francis de Sales, Abingdon, MD
Dec. 20, -3:00PM-5:00PM & -7:00PM-9:00PM	St. Stephen's, Kingsville, MD

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

How much money should I be giving to the Church, to the Poor?
Genesis 28: 20-22. After the vision of God's renewed covenant, Jacob initiates a covenant with God vowing to give Him a tithe of what he received from the promised land.

Treasure– November 19, 2017

Offertory – Envelopes	\$7,317.00
Christmas Flowers	580.00
Parish Catholic School Assessment	303.00
Poor Box – BirthRight	326.37
Mass Attendance	513

Treasure– November 26, 2017

The offering for November 26 will be posted in the December 10th bulletin.

- 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.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: December 8, 2017 - Holy Day of Obligation

Christmas and Year End Giving:

Christmas marks the ULTIMATE GIFT – God's gift of His only son, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus we remember that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the new born King; the beginning of gift giving.

We must also consider all the gifts God has bestowed upon us during the year and we must remind ourselves that we are merely stewards of these gifts. This presents to us a very special spiritual opportunity to make a return to God for His many blessings - a true Gift of Faith. These opportunities include our time, talent and treasure.

After prayerful thought and consideration please remember your parish, St. Mary's, at Christmas. Give your gift based on faith and the blessings you have received this year. Thank you for your generosity.

Year end gifts for the year 2017 must be in the office by December 18, 2017 to be recorded as a gift for this calendar year. Again, thank you for all you do for St. Mary's

Contribution Statement 2017:

If you would like a contribution statement (recorded contributors only (Church Envelopes or EFT) for calendar year 2017 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 9th & December 10th**

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.)**

Maintenance Fund: St. Mary: Second Collection: Funds to provide regular maintenance for the parish buildings, grounds and equipment. This fund is not used for general operations of the parish or capital projects.

Retired Religious: Archdiocese of Baltimore: Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests need your help. For years, these selfless women and men ministered for little, if any, compensation—educating the young, nursing the sick, promoting justice and peace. Their sacrifices now leave a substantial gap in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital funding for prescriptions, nursing care and more. Please Share in the Care and give to those who have given a lifetime. This **“Special envelope”** can be placed in the regular offertory collection along with your weekly offering envelope.

Poor Box: St. Edwards: This weekend the donations to the poor box will be given to our sister parish “St. Edwards” to assist them any where their need is most important.

PARISH YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

To all middle and high school students join us in the Hall at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Food Sort then we will go to the Youth Room from 8 – 10 pm for Christmas Movie and snacks.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS SPIRIT PHP DECEMBER 16th

We will be visiting our elderly friends at the Forest Hill Heights. Please meet us at the center at 6:45 pm.. We need musicians to play some Christmas songs. We will carol with the residents to spread some Christmas spirit. Afterwards, we will go to Chick-fil-A for fellowship, bring cash with you. Look for details in the Winter YM Newsletter.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE PARISH CHRISTMAS TREE

December 7th Immediately following the 7:00 p.m. Mass for the Eve of the Immaculate Conception. Father will bless the Parish Christmas tree, and we will illuminate the tree with song. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Youth Room after the lighting. We would like to thank Ron Weber for the donation of our beautiful tree.

OUTREACH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS GROCERIES

Dec. 2-3	Distributing the grocery bags
Dec 9-10	Collecting the grocery bags
Dec. 15th	Sorting groceries (7-8:30 p.m.)
Dec. 16th	Distributing groceries and Christmas gifts (8:30-11:00 a.m.)

We do need volunteers! We served 13 families for Thanksgiving. More families will be assigned to us by Mason-Dixon Community Services for Christmas and we'll also serve 10 families from St. Edwards's We'll need your help sorting the groceries and we'll really need your help carrying the groceries and the Christmas gifts out to our families vehicles. Come have some fun while helping your neighbors. Please contact Bob Hoopert at 410-692-4157 or crhoopert@zoominternet.net

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOX

We would like to take this time to say Thank You to all of St. Mary's Parishioners who were part of the Operation Christmas Shoe Box Program. This year we collected 108 shoe boxes. You have helped to make a small child's Christmas a Blessed one.

BEANS & BREAD MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Can you lend a hand? The Beans & Bread Ministry needs a driver to deliver casseroles to downtown Baltimore for 2 months on a Monday in 2018. Please call Glenda Broad at 717-284-5711 or e-mail me at glendabr@comcast.net if you can help or you want more information. Thank you in advance.

**ST. MARY'S
LUNCHEON BINGO
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 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. The Menu for Dec 5th is:

Ham , Sweet Potatoes
Peas, Biscuits, Christmas Cookies

The Bingo Jackpot for December is \$250.00
in 59 numbers or less

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

**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
POSTER CONTEST**

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring their annual poster contest once again. The Mason-Dixon Council invites all children in grades K through 8th to participate. Contest rules attached to poster paper is available in the vestibule of the church & hall. The deadline for the poster is Sunday, December 10th. Completed posters should be put in the boxes placed in the hall and vestibule of the church. Cash prizes will be awarded to a winner at each grade level. Give it your best and good luck!

Questions or more information contact Mr. Neil Bittner @ 717-456-9118.

THE GIVING TREE

The annual Christmas Giving Tree is up in the Church and will remain until December 10th. The tree will be decorated with hand-made ornaments, containing information about the wishes of our families in need. When you take an ornament and purchase the gift for that family, please place the ornament on the package and return it to the foot of the tree as soon as possible, or before December 10th. Your gifts in the past years have given much joy to those in need. Thank you as always for your generosity.

ST MARY'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 4, 2017

7:00 p.m. WWP
7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

10:00 a.m. Luncheon Bingo
5:30 p.m. CFF Class
6:45 p.m. Confirmation Class

Wednesday December 6, 2017

5:30 p.m. CFF Classes
7:00 p.m. Fr. Paul Adult Ed
7:00 p.m. Cont. Music

Thursday, December 7, 2017

7:00 p.m. TMIY
7:00 p.m. Eve of Holy Day Mass
7:45 p.m. Lighting of Parish Christmas Tree
8:00 p.m. Fellowship in Youth Room

Friday, December 8, 2017

9:00 a.m. Holy Day Mass
7:00 p.m. Holy Day Mass

Saturday, December 9, 2017

.....Casserole Pans Returned
..... Food Bags Returned
..... Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll
9:00 a.m. 1st Reconciliation Retreat

Sunday, December 10, 2017

.....Casserole Pans Returned
..... Food Bags Returned
..... Knights of Columbus Tootsie Rolls
10:00 a.m. WWP
11:15 a.m. CPW Mass

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We know that Christmas time is a very busy time of the year. Cooking, Shopping, etc. Could you give a few hours to help honor the Infant "Jesus" by decorating the Hall & Church for this very important holiday, "CHRISTMAS", and in turn be blessed in a very special way. Dates to decorate are: Monday, Dec. 18th at 10:00 a.m. in the Hall and if you could stay after the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 24th in Church. If so please call Lois Fritz at 410-692-5949 or the parish office @ 410-879-4015.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generous donations. The Food Pantry will be closed in December due to the large outreach food program. The Pantry will be open on Saturday, January 20, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until noon, with a "snow" date of January 27th.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Eve of Holy Day - Immaculate Conception

Thursday, December 7, 20177:00 P.M.

Holy Day - Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 8, 20179:00 A.M.
7:00 P.M.

Lighting Parish Christmas Tree

Thursday, December 7, 2017.....8:00 P.M.

"Jesus' Birthday Bash"

Sunday, December 17, 2017 3:00 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation Service for Children

Tuesday, December 12, 2017..6:30 P.M.

Confessions: Monday, December 18, 20179:30 A.M.

.....7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Parish Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 19, 20177:00 P.M.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 23 & 24, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd MASS 4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th MASS 8:00 , 9:30 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

4:00 P.M.Church

4:00 P.M.Hall

6:00 P.M.Church

8:00 P.M.Church

9:30 P.M.Church

(all are invited for caroling)

10:00 P.M.Mass in Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

10:00 A.M.Church

WEEKEND SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 30 & 31, 2017

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH MASS 4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST MASS 8:00 , 9:30 & 11:15 AM

NEWS YEARS DAY MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

(Not a Holy day of Obligation this year)

Monday, January 1, 2018.....10:00 A.M.

The Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, & Tuesday. December 25 & 26, 2017. Also, Monday, January 1, 2018.