

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 17, 2017**

Today's Readings
3rd Sunday of Advent
Is 61: 1-2,10-11
1 Thes 5: 16-24
Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

Readings for 12/24/17
4th Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:15,8-12,14,16
Rom 16: 25-27
Lk 1: 26-38

MASS INTENTIONS: DEC.18 TO 24, 2017

Monday	9:00 a.m.	Mary Ann Cline
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Glenn DeVage
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Camille Kiedrowski
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Pete Fritz
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Fr. Lloyd George (H) Lorraine Lilley

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

SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF 12/24/17

Ministry	Sat 4 pm Dec. 23	Sun 8 am Dec. 24	Sun 9:30 Dec. 24
Priest	MS	HK	MS
Lectors	B Mank	R McGraw	M Canter
EM	L Fritz	A Chaney	J Bowman
	J Kusik	M McGraw	M Childress
	S Pardo	L Surkin	B Hoopert
	J Poole	B Weber	C Hoopert
	M Washburn		
Server	H Arnett	O Ayd	L Mahns
		A Engel	R Mahns
		A Engel	J Channell
			M Channell
Sacristan	G Arnett		S Usselman

FROM FR. KUNKEL

In this weekend's Gospel, we have a picture of the tough, powerful preaching of John the Baptist. John came out of the desert and preached an uncompromising message. Nevertheless, the crowds flocked to him. Why was this so? I think the answer lies in the heart of the Baptist's proclamation. He said, "There is one coming after me who is greater than I. I baptize with water, he will baptize with the Holy Spirit!"

John did not come to offer condemnation, but hope. He came with a message of promise and of great happiness. He was actually a bearer of wonderful news! He came, not with a preaching that would imprison us with fear or with words that

would tie us all up in knots, but with tidings of great joy. We hear this hopeful promise echoed in this weekend's first reading from the prophet Isaiah, "He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to those in prison."

Unfortunately, so many people are imprisoned by religion rather than being liberated by it. When this happens, it is not the Gospel that they are really hearing. St. Paul invites us to "be happy at all times." He wishes us to experience the joy and the peace of Jesus Christ.

There are many in our society today who simply long for a word of hope; people whose lives are empty, who could be transformed by a word of promise. Why is it that we seldom hear consoling messages from so many religious preachers? Why do statues not smile instead of weep? Why do so-called visionaries never see a happy risen Christ, but always a bleeding, crucified one?

Perhaps the Gospel message of John the Baptist, that rough man who bounded out of the wilderness, has been misinterpreted. The core of his message, the central theme of this weekend's liturgy is actually the opposite. It is hope, not despair that he announces. "Rejoice," we are told, "because the Lord will come to save you." Is not this, the message that our society really needs to hear? Our world desperately needs a word of encouragement, a word of happiness, a word of joy!

Soon it will be Christmas, our great Christian feast of simple rejoicing. Let us not forget that Jesus came to bring GOOD NEWS! That news is that he is our Savior and our God. Let us open our hearts to his message, but above all, let us also spread this good news to others!

As we know, Advent is the season when God seeks to heal the brokenhearted. It is a time to acknowledge the ways in which we are not free, and to humbly seek God's help in achieving that freedom. St. Paul gives a clue in how to go about doing that. He says, "In all circumstances, give thanks." Gratitude may be one of the keys that unlocks your prison!

ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of Camille Ann Kiedrowski by her husband. Also In memory of Mary Eleanor Webster Smith by her family.



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.



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

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.

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...



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"
Charles Daughton
Eleanor Judd



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

CELEBRATIONS & CONGRATULATIONS!!

Happy Birthday-80's and over

Lois Fritz	80	Dec 23
Maurice Kief	88	Dec 24
Earl Howell	88	Dec 25

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

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

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

How much money should I be giving to the Church, to the Poor? Deuteronomy 12: 5-11. God gives instructions on what to do with the tithe.

Treasure-- November 2017

Offertory - EFT **\$11,418.69**

Treasure-- December 3, 2017

Offertory - Envelopes	\$5,768.00
Parish Building Fund	973.00
PoorBox-LittleSisters	343.34
Mass Attendance	

Treasure-- December 10 2017

Offertory - Envelopes	\$4,992.00
Maintenance	1,333.00
Retired Religious-Aof B	550.00
HolyDay- Immaculate Conception	1,029.00
PoorBox-St.Edwards	256.20
Mass Attendance	

- 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.

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.,ZipCode: _____

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 23rd & December 24th**

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.)**

Poor Box: “Local Assistance”: The donations to the poor box this weekend will help support local assistance where needed.

RESPECT LIFE

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.

**FATHER MICHAEL SCHLEUPNER
WEEKLY FAITH MESSAGE**

Father Michael Schlepner, who assists us with Masses on weekends, writes a weekly spiritual message. It is called *Inbox Inspirations*. Father sends this via email every Wednesday morning. If you want to receive this, contact fathermikeinbox@gmail.com. Your name will be added to the mailing list and you will begin to receive *Inbox Inspirations*. A link to his Sunday homily is also included in the email. By the way, there is no charge and there is always the opportunity to unsubscribe. Father Mike's *Inbox Inspirations* and his homilies are also posted on his Facebook page – Father Michael Schlepner.

<i>Reconciliation/Penance Services Advent 2017 The Harford Region</i>	
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

**CHRISTMAS
DECORATING
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.



PARISH ACTIVITIES

ST MARY'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 18, 2017

9:30 a.m. Confessions
 10:00 a.m. Decorate Hall
 7-8 p.m. Confessions
 7:00 p.m. WWP

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

7:00 p.m. Parish Advent Penance Service

Wednesday December 20, 2017

7:00 p.m. Cont. Music

Saturday, December 23, 2017

4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass

Sunday, December 24, 2017

8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass
 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass

Decorate for Christmas Masses

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.



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.



ST. MARY'S LUNCHEON BINGO TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018



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. 2nd is:

Chicken Pot Pie
 Neapolitan Cake Bar

The Bingo Jackpot for January is \$200.00
 in 60 numbers or less

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

*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.