

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 24, 2017**

Today's Readings
4th Sunday of Advent
2 Sm 7:15,8-12,14,16
Rom 16: 25-27
Lk 1: 26-38

Readings for 12/31/17
The Holy Family
Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14
Heb 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19
Lk 2: 2-40 or 2: 22, 39-40

MASS INTENTIONS: DEC. 25 TO 31, 2017

Monday	9:00 a.m.	All Parishioners
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Anthony & Catherine Kunkel
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Poor Souls
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Beverly Wilson
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Pete Fritz
Sunday	8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:15a.m.	Beverly Wilson Camille Kiedrowski Anthony & Catherine Kunkel

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

SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF 12/31/17

Ministry	Sat 4 pm Dec. 30	Sun 8 am Dec. 31	Sun 9:30 Dec. 31	Sun 11:15 Dec. 31
Priest	MS	MS	HK	HK
Lectors	D Logan	J McConnell	C Yost	R Oursler
EM	L Fritz	A Chaney	Bob Hoopert	C Era
	J Kusik	L Surkin	C Hoopert	P Era
	J Poole	B Weber	K Ayers	S Friedman
	M Washburn	F Holtz	N Yost	D Friedmwn
	D Phillips			
Server	H Arnett	O Ayd	J Eakes	P Bittner
		A Engel	D Warne	C Lawrence
		A Engel	I Warne	A Rhodes
			K Gesla	
Sacristan	G Arnett		S Usselman	L Dodson

FROM FR. KUNKEL

Most of us who celebrate Christmas hopefully recognize its link to the birth of Christ. However, it is so easy to just stop there, and not recognize the ongoing mystery of the Incarnation that the feast really celebrates! We not only recall the event in Bethlehem centuries ago; we also celebrate Christ's continuing presence in our world right here and now, today!

This weekend's readings tell us something really quite amazing as we prepare for this Christmas season. Did you

realize that there would not be any Christmas without "us" – without that wonderful Jewish girl, Mary! The truly amazing thing is that what God wants for us folks will actually manage to get done through those of us who are willing to cooperate and be a real part of the action!

You would think that God would have learned by now that we're a rather inept bunch – not the kind of folks you'd rely on to accomplish really big things. Perhaps it is that one little word uttered by Mary in our Gospel, and by so many others before her and since – that tiny, but powerful "YES!" "Yes, I'll bear the child!" Perhaps that "YES" is what keeps God coming back to us again and again, extending the invitation, issuing the call, planting the seed, seeking us to help inch the Kingdom along!

And so, the exciting event we are about to celebrate is not so much about what happened 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. The exciting thing is what is happening right here at St. Mary's in Pylesville, among us as a pregnant people called in so many ways to give birth to God made flesh in our lives! Mary had some legitimate concerns in accepting the reality of the message that would forever change her life and the life of our world. She asked questions seeking clarification, then gave her assent with faith.

As we prepare for the great feast of God born among us, let us all dare to speak that most powerful of words, that "YES" that links us to Mary and all the others! Let us shout it if we are courageous enough, or whisper it if we are afraid. However, let us each speak the word that God longs to hear from us. This Christmas as we ponder what God asks of us, let us thunder our resounding "YES!"

It is when we seek God's will, not our own, that God can really come and make his home in us. Through our lives, his love can then become real – enfleshed – in our world. That is God's invitation and challenge to us! As individuals and as a Church, we can have confidence as we face whatever problems life might throw at us, confidence, not in our own abilities and talents, but in God's faithfulness and power. Nothing is impossible to God!

CELEBRATIONS & CONGRATULATIONS!!

Happy Birthday-80's and over

Lois Fritz	80	Dec 23
Maurice Kief	88	Dec 24
Earl Howell	88	Dec 25
Lawrence Knott	83	Jan 2
Mary Stewart	85	Jan 10
Josephine Leyko	93	Jan 12
Augusta Guerriero	81	Jan 12
Thomas Burke	88	Jan 15
Betty Lou Knott	84	Jan 17
Anthony Petrucci	88	Jan 18
Elizabeth Grier	82	Jan 27
Robert Groff	87	Jan 30

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
Joseph & Patricia Hushon	64	Jan 2
Stephen & Rosalee Bevard	52	Jan 15
John & Dolores Fetter		
Joseph & Anne Willenburg	25	Jan 24
Earl & Diana Weidner	54	Jan 25
Douglas & Mary Washburn	51	Jan 27

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

**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... Anniston Elizabeth Seaman, Daughter of Justin & Sharon



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 Jubb
Pat Knight**



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

ALTAR FLOWERS

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.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

How much money should I be giving to the Church, to the Poor? Deuteronomy 14: 22-29. God gives instructions on how to disperse and exchange the tithe.

Treasure– December 17. 2017

The offering for December 17th will be posted in December 31st 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.

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).

Christmas: Dec. 25th - A special time of the year to give our gift to the church for the very special gift God gave us—His

only Son, Jesus. Please be as generous as you can during this Holy Season.

****Next Weekend: December 30th & December 31st**
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

Jesus came to us in the same way we all come into this world, as a vulnerable little baby. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, praise God for the miracle of all 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.



“He is always with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go. . . Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2017-18 Respect Life Reflection, www.bit.ly/2x31e1x

“An unexpected pregnancy can be a difficult and frightening time, and it’s important that your friend knows you are thinking of her and supporting her. . . Your support might be the only support she receives. Even if we never know how,

the smallest things we do can change someone’s life.”
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

ST MARY’S WEEKLY CALENDAR

Monday, December 25, 2017

10:00 a.m.Christmas Day Mass
.....Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

.....Office Closed

Wednesday December 27, 2017

7:00 p.m.Cont. Music

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

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

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.*