

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT DECEMBER 23, 2018



Dear Parishioners, Visitors & Friends,

Many thanks for your generous gifts, cards and prayers, given to all of us this Christmas. May this season find you abounding in love, rejoicing in hope, and secure in God's peace. I pray that God's richest blessings continue with you and yours through the coming year.

...Fr. John Mink & Fr. Richard Jasper

The St. Ann "APP": Associate Pastor's Perspective – My best friend and I were put in charge of the school's stationery closet in the latter-half of seventh grade, a pretty big deal when you were 12 years old. After all, you had the power of deciding who got what color pencil case or folder and knew exactly where the teachers got their colored-chalk and red-pen supplies. And yet, with the responsibility came a great burden, for it often meant missing lunch recess if the closet wasn't organized to Sister Marie Julia's liking. Frequently rushing our chores in order to get outside, we'd be sternly cautioned by Sister: "Haste makes waste, gentlemen."

I think of this expression each time I hear Luke's Gospel account of Mary travelling to the hill country *in haste* to visit her cousin Elizabeth. "Haste makes waste, Mary," I can hear Sister telling the Mother of our Savior.

And yet, maybe that's Luke's point: how could Our Lady NOT run in haste with the Love of God she carried within her? How could she NOT spill forth – perhaps even recklessly – the Mercy for which the world longed? That, in essence, is the beauty of Christmas: God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to save us and swaddle us in the abundant Light and Peace which only He can truly give.

We come together this week to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Christmas season. May we, like Mary running to the hill country, make haste in sharing the love and mercy of God with our family, friends and even the Scrooges that may cross our paths in the days ahead. Our Lady couldn't wait to share the Good News with others. May the same be said of us and our entire parish community.

Blessed Christmas from our St. Ann's Family to yours!



St. Ann's 2018 Christmas Mass Schedule



December 24th 5pm	(Church & Social Hall) Christmas Eve Mass
December 24th 7pm & 10pm	(Church) Christmas Eve Mass
December 25th 9am & 11am	(Church) Christmas Day Mass
December 26-28th 9am	Daily Mass ONLY
December 31 9am	Daily Mass ONLY
December 31 5pm	VIGIL Mass
January 1st 9:30am	New Year's Day Mass

Please note that there is NOT a morning mass on Monday, December 24th. The Rectory Office will be closed December 24th & 25th for the Christmas Holiday and December 31st & January 1st for New Year's.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE- Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Giving Tree program. Your gifts and acts of kindness will make Christmas brighter for so many in need.

BIG THANK YOU – to everyone who gave of their time and talent decorating our church for Christmas. We appreciate all that you did - it looks amazing! Thank you again from all of us at St. Ann's!

Mass Intentions

Saturday December 22

8:00 A.M. Mary Pupillo

5:00 P.M. Ida Asta

Sunday December 23

7:30 A.M. Paul Jeffery Roehm & Gladys Vattilana

9:30 A.M. Barbara Cann

11:30 A.M. Bruce McKenzie

Monday December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 P.M. Charles H. McKinney (Church)

5:00 P.M. Parishioners (Social Hall)

7:00 P.M. Thomas W. & Theresa Ann Faulkner

10:00 P.M. Whitworth & Jasper families

Tuesday December 25 Christmas Day

9:00 A.M. Alice McGonigle

11:00 A.M. The Kelly & Azar families

Wednesday December 26

9:00 A.M. Stephen & Anna Smith

Thursday December 27

9:00 A.M. Tom Wertz

Friday December 28

9:00 A.M. Mary Cunningham

Saturday December 29

8:00 A.M. John Fleming

5:00 P.M. M/M Francis & Stella Smith

Sunday December 30

7:30 A.M. Parishioners

9:30 A.M. Anna Donnelly

11:30 A.M. Christopher Connors

Pray for the sick, shut-ins and elderly of our Parish.

Charitable Contributions - are one of the many gifts that remain for end of the year giving. For the computer savvy, our Electronic Giving Program is a convenient way to give. Our website stannwilmington.com has info on how to give this way. Our Company Matching Gift Program, Memorial Gifts, and Wills, annuities, trusts and stocks, or a contribution to St. Ann School Annual Fund or the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Ann Parish are other ways to further the mission of our faith. All gifts received by December 31, 2018 will be credited for the April 15, 2019 tax year. Thank you for your generosity during the holidays.

Men's Morning Group: Join us for Scripture discussion and prayer after the 8 a.m. mass each Wednesday. **The group will not meet on 12/26 or 1/2/19.** For more info, email the rectory or richcsisca@comcast.net. **Our Men's Evening Group Discussion will resume in 2019.**



HOLY MOMENTS



We Congratulate...

BEATRICE GRACE, daughter of Robert & Rebecca Beste who was welcomed into the Christian community at St. Ann's through Baptism.

Becoming Catholic: Interested in learning more about joining the Church? Were you baptized as child but have not yet celebrated the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? RCIA classes have already begun and continue to meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. It's not too late to join us ... and we have quite a lively group of seekers! For more information, please contact Jane at the rectory (654-5519) or email Father Jasper at rjasper@stannwilmington.com.

High-School Faith-Sharing: At our last session, over a dozen teens joined us to celebrate and learn more about the Mass. **Our next session will be held in late January 2019.** Feel free to invite a friend or two; the group is open to any high-school-aged teenager, regardless of the school one attends. For more information or to let us know you are planning on coming, please email the rectory at: www.stannwilmington.com.



During the season of Advent, the sixth grade has been keenly focused on Jesus' second coming. We are reminding ourselves daily to prepare for the arrival of Jesus. Students have been reading the Bible each day and learning about many of Jesus' ancestors. In addition to participating in the sacrament of Reconciliation, the 6th grade knows how important it is for us to commit corporal works of mercy during Advent. The class 'adopted' a family in great need and brought in twice as much money as the goal that was set. We pray that this means our family will be doubly blessed this Christmas!

ST. ANN CHURCH & SCHOOL - THE WIZARD OF OZ – The show is cast and rehearsals begin in January. We are excited to have 40 plus young people to entertain you for another outstanding musical. Save the date for performances on Friday April 5th and Saturday April 6th. Until then, we are off to see the Wizard!!! See you in Oz! 2

Election of Trustees – Each parish in the Diocese of Wilmington is incorporated within and by the laws of the State in which it is located. St. Ann is incorporated in the State of Delaware. The by-laws of the Corporation and the statutes of the Diocese of Wilmington provide for five trustees; the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Pastor, and a priest so designated by the Bishop, (these days it is the Chancellor of the Diocese) and two (2) lay persons are to be elected each January by duly registered members of the parish in the meeting called by the President (the Pastor). That meeting is scheduled for January 6th, following the 11:30am Mass in the Parish Hall. Our current lay trustees are Charles Klous and David O'Connor.

Religious Vocations In today's first reading, the Lord promises to send One "who will shepherd his flock". God has kept that promise throughout the centuries and continues to call shepherds for His people. Is He calling you to serve as a shepherd – to minister to His people as a priest? Call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly/Religious Vocations- vocations@cdow.org or 573-3113.

The Chapel of Divine Mercy is open with the Blessed Sacrament exposed the following hours: **6am to 10pm Monday through Friday & Sunday, 6am to 9pm Saturday.** Email www.adorationchapel.org or call Chris at 584-1422 or Nan at 656-8438 to offer an hour of time.

ST. ANN'S PRAYER LINE – to place a name or special request on the prayer line call Joe or Shirley Ackerman at 384-7513 or email joeshirl7@comcast.net.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A MALVERN RETREAT FOR CHRISTMAS – The annual Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group weekend retreat for the men of the Diocese of Wilmington is May 3rd to 5th, 2019 at beautiful St. Joseph's-in- the-Hills, Malvern, PA. In these times of frantic activity, when the pace of life can be almost too much to bear, a quiet, peaceful and spiritually fulfilling retreat could make a wonderful Christmas gift for a father, husband, brother or son. For more information, please visit our website at www.malvernretreat.com or call Paul Smith Jr at (302) 777-2408.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Padua's Musical Theater Program – Friday, January 11th from 5:30pm-8:30-pm. The cost is \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, ages 5 and under \$5. For more info email lkowalski@paduaacademy.org.

St. Ann School Alumni Social – The St. Ann School Alumni Committee would like to invite all St. Ann alumni to a meet and greet on Saturday, January 26th at The Dead Presidents Bar (618 N. Union St) starting at 6:30pm. Please come join us and spread the news. Alumni of all ages are welcome!

Two history books to celebrate the diocesan 150th anniversary are now available through St. Ann's - "Rejoicing in the Lord," for \$40 and "Family of Faith" for \$18 have been published to help commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. To purchase, fill out an order form and return with payment to the rectory. For info, call 654-5519 or email jmatyger@stannwilmington.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/24/ Christmas Eve: No Daily Mass Masses are 5pm in Church & Social Hall, 7pm in Church, 10pm in Church**
- 12/25 Christmas Day: Masses are 9am and 11am**
- 12/26-28 Daily Mass at 9am ONLY**
- 12/31 New Year's Eve: Daily Mass at 9am and Vigil at 5pm**
- 1/1 New Year's Day: Mass at 9:30am**

On behalf of Fr. Mink, Fr. Jasper, and the entire St. Ann's Rectory Staff, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years. The rectory is closed December 24-25 for Christmas and December 31-January 1 for New Year's.

Advent Prayer

Light of the world, enter the darkness of our hearts and renew us in faith, hope and love. As we prepare to celebrate the great mystery of the Incarnation, help us to see your presence in our world, especially in the needs of the poor. Strengthen us to become true peacemakers able to love our enemies and forgive those who have offended us. Lead us to acknowledge our own sinfulness, accept your mercy and extend your healing love to those around us. Amen...

