

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2017



From the desk of Fr. Mink..... “WELL, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?”

We have all heard this question before. Maybe someone has asked it of us, or we have asked it of someone else. It can be seen as an expression of impatience or perhaps, a thoughtful and prudent pause. Whatever, the case, waiting is not always easy, and as Americans we are not accustomed to waiting too long, at least without an explanation! The season of Advent is upon us and the church calls us to a posture of “patient waiting.” One may wonder if this season would be better suited for summertime when the busyness of life tends to slow down. The Church does have wisdom in calling us to this prayer and patient waiting at a time when we really need it to help prepare our hearts for Christ’s Coming.

Advent is not a season to pretend, since Christ was already born into the world. In the words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem, *“We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second one as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom. At his first coming he was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At his second coming he will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming he endured the cross, in the second coming he will be in glory escorted by an army of Angels.”*

Advent is a time to prepare for that final coming of Christ, by recalling his first coming and the joy it brings as well as remembering that Christ comes into our hearts each day when we receive Him in the Eucharist. Let us wait patiently for the Master’s return this Advent by recalling God’s promises to his people in salvation history, keeping his commandments, and waiting for Him until he returns again in glory!

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE- Tags on the tree represent gift requests for families visited by our St. Vincent de Paul Society throughout 2017. If you take a tag, please return the wrapped gift **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16th**. In order to ensure safe delivery of the gifts, please make sure you **ATTACH THE TAG TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE GIFT AND LEAVE IT UNDER THE TREE OR INSIDE THE RECTORY**. For more information contact Katie O’Connor at madello@msn.com. **THANK YOU!**

St. Ann’s Christmas Choir Concert –Mark your calendars! Our annual Christmas concert is next Sunday December 10th at 2pm here at St. Ann’s. This concert, which is free of charge, will feature our St. Ann’s Children’s Choir, Elkton High School’s Advanced Women’s Choir and the St. Ann’s Parish Choir. It’s sure to put you in the holiday spirit! There will be a light reception following the concert in the Social Hall. Hope to see you there!.

Christmas Card Sale - The Knights of Columbus will be selling Christmas Cards after the Sunday masses until December 17th. Get them before they sell out."

<p>Holy Day for Immaculate Conception - There will be a Vigil Mass this Thursday, December 7th at 5:30pm. The mass schedule for Friday, December 8th is 6:15am (<i>please note time change</i>), 8am, 9:15am (school) and 5:30pm</p>

Second Collection this Weekend – Retirement Fund for Religious - Today many religious struggle to care for their elderly members...the same members who have given us so much for so many years. We understand that this is but one of the numerous worthy causes in need of support and we thank you in advance for your consideration. So in thanksgiving for all that our senior religious have done, please join us and Bishop Malooly in supporting this cause as well as continued blessing on our nation’s elder sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Your efforts are vital to its success.

Mass Intentions

Saturday December 2

8:00 A.M. Georgina Sheing & Hank Salacki

5:00 P.M. Joseph & Evelyn Dorris

Sunday December 3

7:30 A.M. R. Franklin Balotti

9:30 A.M. Charlie O'Connor

11:30 A.M. Parishioners

Monday December 4

6:30 A.M. James P. Garofalo

8:00 A.M. Patrick Gorman

Tuesday December 5

6:30 A.M. Fr. Charles Thomas Reese

8:00 A.M. Cornelius J. Reardon

Wednesday December 6

6:30 A.M. Andrew McLaughan

8:00 A.M. Dolores Morole

Thursday December 7

6:30 A.M. Joseph Hanson

8:00 A.M. Margaret C. Johnson

5:30 P.M. Intention of Fr. Richard Jasper **Vigil**

Friday December 8 Immaculate Conception

6:15 A.M. Mary Miles

8:00 A.M. William & Nellie McClafferty

5:30 P.M. Intention of Fr. John Mink

Saturday December 9

8:00 A.M. Brenden Cobb

5:00 P.M. Theresa Ann & Thomas W. Faulkner

Sunday December 10

7:30 A.M. R. Mary Cunningham & Deceased members of the Cunningham family

9:30 A.M. Parishioners

11:30 A.M. Rev. Msgr. Paul J. Taggart

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

The Chapel of Divine Mercy is open **6am to 10pm, 7 days a week** with the Blessed Sacrament exposed. Can you offer an hour of your time? Visit www.adorationchapel.org to sign up. You can also call Chris at 584-1422 or Nan at 656-8438.

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

Hospital Visitations – Make sure to call the Rectory at 654-5519 if you are in the hospital and would like a priest to visit.

Need to register for St. Ann's? Visit our website www.stannwilmington.com and select the parish registration button. Just email back to us!

Catholic Forum – Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05am on WDEL 101.7FM, 1150AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, December 10th, Author Christopher Sparks will discuss his book, "*How Can You Be Catholic?*" Listen to past episodes Catholic forum online - cdow.org/communications.

Religious Vocations – In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah says to the Lord, "would that we were mindful of you in our ways". If you are trying to figure out what you should do with your life, don't forget to invite God into the conversation. What part of His plan has He chosen for you? If you think you might be called to the priesthood, the diaconate or religious life, please contact Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations at vocations@cdow.org or 573-3113.

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 Friday, April 27th through Sunday April 29, 2018 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 info, visit the website at www.malvernretreat.com or call Paul Smith Jr. at 777-2408.

Lights of Love – sponsored by the Junior Board of St. Francis Hospital to recognize friends and family or to honor the memory of loved ones. By making a donation of \$10 or more per name, those honored will have their names displayed on a scroll in the hospital lobby. On December 18th, a Mass in the Chapel (5th floor) and celebration in the lobby will be led by the Most Rev. W. Francis Malooly, Bishop of Wilmington. For more info, contact susanmclaughlin53@gmail.com or send checks (payable to the Jr. Board of St. Francis) to PO Box 2764 Wilmington DE 19810. Please have the payment sent no later than December 10th.

Lectors – Please pick up your 2018 books in the sacristy.

St. Joseph on the Brandywine Music Ministry and Parish Christmas Concert – Sunday December 10th at 3pm in the Church. The program will include Nativity Suites, a Cantata for Christmas and a carol sing-along with choir and organ. There will be a free will offering.

Parents of 8th, 9th and 10th graders - July 2018 offers a wonderful opportunity for your teen to be involved in the Ulster Project Delaware. Ulster Project Delaware (UPD) is a peace project which has been going on in Delaware for 42 years. Every year 18 Northern Irish Catholic and Protestant teens come to stay with host families in Delaware for the month of July. The US host teens participate in the month filled with all the daily activities with the Northern Irish teens. It will be an amazing month packed with trips to Philadelphia, DC, New York, Hershey Park, beaches, pool parties, dances, shopping, as well as service projects, leadership and team building events, visits to various places of worship – all directed towards developing tolerance and understanding among people with different cultural and religious differences. These activities are all covered in the low family fee of \$200(or less)! It will be a month which will last a lifetime! The bond created among these teens within just a month is hard to believe. It is an opportunity of leadership and a perfect college essay topic. **Parents and teens can join an information session on Sunday December 3rd at 1:30 pm at the Kirkwood Highway Library, 6000 Kirkwood Hwy. Wilmington DE 19808.**

PASS THE WORD – Tuesday February 27th at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD. It's an Annual Diocesan Vocation initiative that seeks to introduce our young men in high school to the possibility of a vocation to the Priesthood through a day long program with the Bishop, priests and seminarians. More info to follow in January of 2018.

Funds for Friend Fundraiser – Come out for food, fun and fundraising! Visit *The Greene Turtle* on S. Ridge Avenue in Middletown or South Main Street in Newark, this Monday December 4th from 11am to 11pm to help the Old Bohemia historical Society raise funds for the renovation and maintenance of St. Francis Xavier Shrine (Old Bohemia) in Warwick Md. To request the flyer that needs to be presented to participate in the fundraiser, call 302-545-21265 or email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com.

All Saints, Cathedral and Gate of Heaven Cemeteries – offering families the option of purchasing winter grave decorations directly from the cemetery. Your selection will be placed by cemetery personnel on the graves that you specify on your order. For more info, go online to cdow.org/cemeteries and click on the special notices tab. The brochure and order forms are available. You can also visit any of the cemetery offices. House at Cathedral and All Saints are 8:30am-4pm Monday-Friday. Gate of Heaven hours are 9am-12 noon Monday-Thursday.

BULLETIN ADVERTISERS – *Have you taken a look at the patrons listed on the back on the bulletin? It's because of their support that we can provide this bulletin at no cost to our parish. Please visit these businesses and don't forget to tell them where you saw their ad!*

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...

Coming Up:

- 12/4 9:15am Blessing of Advent Wreaths
- 12/4 7pm Athletic Assn Mtg.
- 12/5 1pm School Confessions
- 12/5 6:30pm First Reconciliation
- 12/6 7pm Choir
- 12/6 7pm RCIA
- 12/7 5:30pm Vigil Mass
- 12/8 Immaculate Conception Masses: 6:15am, 8am, 9:15am 5:30pm**
- 12/9 9am Breakfast With Santa
- 12/10 2PM Choir Christmas Concert
- 12/12 1pm School Confessions
- 12/12 7pm Knights of Columbus mtg.

