December Sunday & Christmas Mass Schedule

The 4th Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 23, 2017
Church: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, December 24, 2017
Church: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm (Spanish Mass)

Christmas Mass Schedule 2017
Sunday, December 24, 2017 – Christmas Eve
Church: 4:00 pm
Church: 6:00 pm

Monday, December 25, 2017 – Christmas Day
Church: Midnight
Church: 9:30 am
Church: 11:00 am (Spanish Mass)

Historic Chapel: 12:00 pm (Latin Mass)

*January 1, 2018 – Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is not a Holyday of obligation in the USA this year.
The Fourth Sunday of Advent

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." Today is the last Sunday of the Advent season, and we hear in the Gospel the anticipation of the feast we will celebrate in just one day. Christmas is coming! Jesus is on his way!

We have had weeks to prepare for this momentous occasion, and now we are on the very verge of its arrival. The children in our midst can hardly contain their excitement as they wait to wake up on Christmas morning. The thrill of this coming moment is meant to remind us of the joy and anticipation we should all feel as we await the coming of Christ. Yes, Christmas is a great feast, but there is more here than a remembrance of the past or a fabulous party in the present. There is a looking-ahead as well. We celebrate as we anticipate.

Much as Mary must have waited in wonder during the nine months of her pregnancy, we wait in hopeful expectation as Christians looking forward to being reunited with our Savior. Our future is full of hope. The deflating melancholy that afflicts many people after a holiday runs its course need not be the experience of the Christian waiting for Christ. We are always looking forward to something! There is never a moment when we have no cause for joy. Our lives are lived in a kind of unending advent as we stand in watchful waiting.

Let us remember this as we enter into our Christmas Eve gatherings and festivities. As we join with family and friends to share in the good things of this life, may we carry with us the joy of knowing that even better things lie in store for us who welcome the infant Jesus into our hearts and homes.

LPI, Inc.

The Sacraments

The Sacrament of Reconciliation: Confessions are heard each week on Saturday at the Church (SR #46) from 3:45pm to 4:45pm. Learn more about this beautiful sacrament by visiting our website: www.allsoulssanford.org/reconciliation

The Sacrament of Baptism: Call the parish office to learn the necessary requirements and make an appointment with Father Kenneth Metz to have your child baptized. Ask us about the requirements for Godparents.

The Sacrament of Marriage: Getting married? Congratulations! The process of being married in the Catholic Church could take between 6 months to a year to complete. Please contact Ann Cammarata at the parish office as soon as possible after your engagement if you would like to be married at All Souls Catholic Church.

Anointing of the Sick: Please call the parish office. The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. Did you know that the Sacrament may be repeated if the person becomes sick again? A person should be anointed before surgery when a dangerous illness is the reason for the intervention.

Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick and Homebound: If you are unable to attend Mass, please call the parish office so we may assist you in having a visit from one of our ministers or one of our priests.

Catholic Funeral and Burial: Please call the parish office or have the funeral home director contact us to arrange the Funeral Mass and for more information about burial at All Souls Catholic Cemetery.

Our Online Homilies: If you missed Mass over the weekend you may view the homily by visiting: www.allsoulssanford.org

Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! Today we rejoice that this new life, this infant God, has come to be "the light of the human race." He is here to shine in the darkness of our sin and sadness, to bring joy and peace in place of sorrow. We celebrate this day with all the energy we have because we know that Christmas truly means good news!

Many of us have topped our trees with a bright star that helps to light up our homes, especially at nighttime. These stars should be more than just plastic decorations, however! They should also shine as reminders to us of the Star of Bethlehem that announced the coming of Christ. What better way to welcome the Light of the World than with that magnificent star?

And just as the Magi found their way to Jesus by following the light of that star, so we too have a heavenly guide to follow: Jesus himself! We have his words and teachings recorded for us in Scripture, his actions and directives preserved through the Tradition of the Church, and the guidance of his Spirit to assist us along the way. And all of these GIFTS are ours because of Christmas! Because the "Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."

As we exchange gifts with our loved ones on this special day, may we remember all of these wonderful things we have already received. And may we strive to give to our family and friends not only the treasures that come in boxes and bags, but also a share in the greatest gifts of God: forgiveness, mercy and the unconditional love that brings joy enough to last the whole year through.

LPI, Inc.
Make All Souls your parish home!

All are welcome here...If you are alienated or upset, we welcome you lovingly. If you are in need of forgiveness, Jesus forgives you completely—with unconditional love. If you have been hurt by the Church, we are truly sorry. If you are angry, Jesus offers you peace. If life has become burdensome, we are here to support you. We are happy you are here and want you to stay. We would like to share our lives with you. Come join us each week so we can worship God together.

All Souls accepts anyone who wants to share in the life of the parish regardless of where they live. Please register as an affirmation of your wish to share in the community life of All Souls. Registration cards may be found in the narthex of the church or chapel, the parish office during the week, or online at our parish website: www.allsoulssanford.org. Why not sign up today? We love new members!

A special All Souls welcome to:
Jessica Vick
Matthew Richter

Our Council of Catholic Women

Dear Sisters in Christ, Peace be with you! This Advent Season please be alert to all our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It is the perfect time to show love to all, especially those with special needs and perhaps some who are still struggling from hurricanes and financial stress. CCW Vice President Annette Tolle is spearheading our "Hugs for the Homeless Campaign" this year and into 2018. We will announce the Sunday in the near future. Our Parish did so well last year. If you would like to make a year end contribution (for tax purposes) just send your check made out to ASCCW (All Souls Council of Catholic Women) to Annette Tolle, 2113 Shady Lane, Geneva, Fl. 32732. Thank you and I remain,

Eleanor Tolley, President
etolley16@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus

If you've got what it takes to go round after round, then you'll enjoy BINGO in our topnotch BINGO Hall. We offer three game packages plus extras, a snack bar and full meals, intermissions, and a guaranteed payout. Located at 2509 Myrtle Ave, Sanford, 407.324.3699.
State law requires that all persons playing BINGO must be at least 18 years of age. Meetings 1st (Social) and 3rd (Business) Tuesdays at 7pm, 2504 S Oak Ave, Sanford. kofc5357.org

Estdoy muy agradecido por la valiosa contribución y participación de todos los involucrados en nuestra reciente celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Agradezco su apoyo valioso e incondicional ! Nuestra comunidad de fe sigue creciendo y prosperando tanto espiritual como financieramente gracias a ti. Tuvimos más de 900 personas a asistir a esta hermosa misa y celebración! Una vez más , más sincero agradecimiento por su generosidad. Usted está en las oraciones de todos nuestros sacerdotes , especialmente durante este tiempo bendito del año.

Padre Medina

I am very grateful for the valuable contribution and participation of everyone who was involved in our recent celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I appreciate your valuable and unconditional support! Our faith community continues to grow and prosper both spiritually and financially because of you. We had over 800 people attend this beautiful Mass and celebration! Once again, sincere thanks for your generosity. You are in the prayers of all our priests, especially during this blessed time of the year.

Father Medina
Faith Formation News

A very special Thank You from D.A.W.G. to everyone who sent in gifts, bags, tape & tags for the “Santa’s Workshop” and a special Thank You to all those who came out for “Breakfast with Santa!” You are all a blessing to our Youth Ministry.

Christ’s love comes alive in Sanford

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.” Matthew 1:23

True love poured forth from the Living Nativity story performed December 9th at All Souls Catholic Church in Sanford. It took more than 50 people to breathe life into the play about the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Things were just about as real as you can get! The performance came complete with a donkey, lamb, and a baby goat that chewed on Faith Formation Director, Jenny Mansingh! “You know, it was not perfect in that stable,” Mansingh, laughs. Still, the message was truly meaningful. Mansingh explains, “My desire is that Christ Jesus is born anew in each of our hearts.”

The crowd was treated to five scenes; prophets foretelling Jesus’ birth, the Annunciation, the Visitation between Mary and Elizabeth, the manger scene, and a reflection. Every moment was clearly a true team effort between children of All Souls Catholic School and students in Faith Formation at the church.

Parishioner, Frances Lommerse, says “We really enjoyed it. It was amazing to watch both adults and children bring to life the story of Christ’s birth.”

During the reflection, the faithful heard a couple of moving songs. The first song, ‘What if I give my All,’ is intended to challenge and encourage us to give our all, which is what Mary did when she said yes,” shares Mansingh. “The second is to bring back the focus to the one thing necessary— love. In our hustle and bustle of stressing over what gifts we should give, we are simply reminded to ‘Give Love on Christmas Day.’”

By Jen Drow, special to the Florida Catholic Newspaper – December 12, 2017
Week Day Readings
Readings for the Week of December 24, 2017
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5--2:2; Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40
Next Sunday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40
“Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today! Now!”  –Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Mass Intentions
Sunday, December 24
8:00 am  
†Joyce Dual by Leah, Karen & Joe Dual
10:00 am  
†Oberto Piedra by his Family
12:00 Noon  
†Michael Gill by Janice Gill

Christmas Eve Masses—Sunday, December 24
4:00 pm  
†Jenni Heneghan Church by her family
6:00 pm  
†Pete Luther Long Church by his family
12:00 Midnight  
†Jeanne d’arc Salvail Christmas Day, Monday, December 25 by Norma & Paul Salvail

Catholic Traditions Explained
Question: Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn’t this take away from their credibility?
Answer: Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church’s experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.

Spend New Year’s Eve with Fr. Ed McCarthy
Why spend the last moments of 2017 waiting for a crystal ball to drop? How about taking time for reflection and prayer in the presence of our Lord? Father Ed McCarthy invites you to come to our Eucharistic Holy Hour on the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Year’s Eve) at the Historic Chapel at 800 S. Oak Ave., Sanford. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 7:30 pm, followed by a Communal Anointing of the Sick with a Benediction will begin at 11:30 pm. Please join us for a time to reflect with thanksgiving for the graces of the past year and greet the coming year with renewed trust in the Lord’s loving mercy.
**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

*Merry Christmas from all of your friends with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul!*

Did you know ... All Souls St. Vincent de Paul prepares and serves meals to more than 150 guests during Sanford’s Grace ‘n Grits every quarter?

*(Concerns from Deeper Needs and Spirituality):* Vincentians serve in hope. They rejoice in discovering the spirit of payer in the poor, for in the silence, the poor can perceive God’s Plan for every person.

**How You Help Us Help Others:** There is an older gentleman who comes to us occasionally for some food. He always wants to pray when we meet and again as we part.

**Year-End Giving:** The Society is a 501© (3) and we’re happy to provide a tax receipt for your year-end giving. We thank you for your generosity!

**Food Pantry Need of the Week:** Small Dish Soap. Thank you!

**This Week’s Vincentian Reflection:** Imagine how Mary felt at the birth of Jesus: excited, awed, frightened. Deep faith was her light in the darkness, for Jesus was born during the night of the year when darkness is the longest.

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul brings light into the darkness surrounding the heart of those living in poverty bringing them the real, lasting, and deep joy of Christmas.

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**Let’s Stay Connected!**

*Like* and post to us on our Facebook Pages:
All Souls Catholic Community
All Souls Catholic Cemetery
All Souls Community Harvest Festival

**Sign-up** to receive parish emails or text messages through our *Flocknote* service. We regularly send updates about parish activities, events, and announcements. You can sign-up to receive our email and free* text alerts by texting *Allsouls* to: **84576** *(Standard messaging rates may apply from your cell phone provider)*

**Follow us** on Twitter: @AllSoulsSanford

**Watch:** Parish Media Ministry for our priest’s Weekly Homily online at our parish website: [https://www.allsoulsanford.org](https://www.allsoulsanford.org)

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**La Corresponsabilidad Diaria**

Todos los años tenemos el tiempo de Adviento y continuará siendo así hasta el regreso de Jesús. Como está terminando este tiempo litúrgico, nos debemos de preguntar si somos mejores discípulos y siervos de Jesucristo y si han aumentado los dones desde el comienzo del tiempo de Adviento. Tengo más de cuarenta años, y he experimentado más de cuarenta Advientos en los que me he acercado más seriamente a mi llamada iniciada en el bautismo. Algunos años han sido mejor que otros, pero me gustaría pensar que mi vida espiritual ha progresado al menos un poco en cada uno de ellos.

La conversión es un proceso; el servicio es una forma de vivir y es más que ser generoso cuando hay que responder a una situación. El servicio y la conversión van de la mano, y siempre avanzamos hacia la santidad en Jesucristo. El vivir de esta manera conlleva práctica y entrega. Si este Adviento no ha ido como esperabas, recuerda que no es realmente el final, es solamente un paso en el camino.

Esta Navidad, mientras que la pasas dando y recibiendo regalos y pasando el tiempo con los que quieres, ojalá que pases el tiempo alegrándote del verdadero regalo que vino hace más de dos mil años y que continúa hasta este día: Jesús. Ojalá que estemos muy agradecidos por este regalo, que continuemos nuestro camino y que nuestras vidas den testimonio de que él es el que nos dirige.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS (Master of Theological Studies) LPI, Inc.

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**Grupos de Oración Spanish**

*Nuestro Grupo de Oración Jesús María y José* cordialmente te invita a su reunión tradicional en Capilla Histórica, en Oak Avenue cada lunes a las 7:15 pm, comenzando con el rezo del rosario, oraciones y la adoración del Santísimo Sacramento. Todos están invitados a asistir. Por favor únase a *Padres y Madres Oración* el primer sábado del mes las 7:00 pm en la Capilla Histórica y permanezca después para la confraternidad en el Salón Social. Nuestro grupo se reúne el primer sábado de cada mes. Se proporciona cuidado de niños.

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**This week in the parish**

| Dec. 26 | Parish Office Closed |
| Dec. 27 | Parish Office Opened from 8 am to 12 Noon |
| Dec. 28 | Parish Office Opened from 8 am to 12 Noon |
| Dec. 29 | Parish Office Opened from 8 am to 12 Noon |

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**SVDP Assistance Hotline call:** 407.330.4400
**SVDP for Pick up of donations:** 1.888.986.4483
**Thrift Store Location:** 216 N. Hwy 17-92, Suite #150
**Hours:** Mon. to Fri.: 10 am to 7 pm; Sat. 9 am to 6 pm

**Use** the Society of St. Vincent de Paul prepares and serves meals to more than 150 guests during Sanford’s Grace ‘n Grits every quarter.

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**DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE? PLEASE CALL US!**

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