

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, December 9th

Advent Parish Mission—7 PM (1)
“The Eucharist”

Monday, December 10th

Advent Parish Mission—7 PM (1)
“Mercy” — Confessions Available

Tuesday, December 11th

Mass—6 AM and 8 AM

Bible Study—10:30 to 12 PM (rectory)
Advent Parish Mission—7 PM (1)
“Our Lady” - Reception to Follow

Wednesday, December 12th

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Adoration and Confessions—5 to 6:45 PM
Mass—7 PM

Thursday, December 13th

Mass—6 AM and 8 AM

Friday, December 14th

Adoration 8:30 to 11:45 AM

Mass—12 Noon

Middle School Youth Group—6:30 to 8:30 PM (3)

Monday, December 17th

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive—11 to 7 PM (2)
Adoration & Confessions—5 to 8 PM

Tuesday, December 18th

Healing Mass—7:00 PM

Legend

Church (1) Padua Hall (2)
Religious Education (3) Ewald Center (4)

Mass Intentions December 10th—16th

12/10	8 am	Glen Miller (D) r/b Jimmy and Gail Carroll
12/11	8 am	Victoria M. Ruiz (D) r/b Mr. & Mrs. Scott Curtin
12/12	8 am	Shirley Zehner (D) r/b Elaine Zehner
12/13	8 am	Joan Ohler (D) r/b Woodburn Family
12/14	8 am	Rusty Adams (D) r/b Davis Family
	12 pm	Joyce Margaret Michaels (D)
12/15	9 am	Ricky O'Dell (D) r/b Mr. & Mrs. Scott Curtin
	4:30 pm	Christopher Basiliko (D) r/b Charlie & Mercedes Basiliko
12/16	8:15 am	Parishioners
	11:15 am	Stephen E. & Scott Pettko (D) r/b Doris Pettko

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Children of the Light

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

Well, we are off to a good start!! The holy season of Advent is upon us. I think the Church is very wise to give us different liturgical seasons by which we can concentrate on different aspects of life. First, the beauty of human life is such a gift to us. The very fact that we have been called into being by our creator through the instrumentality of our parents who co-create with God, the creator of all that is. We have been willed by God to live out the beauty of life here on planet Earth and we are destined to be one with God forever in the eternal kingdom which has no end. The scriptures make various references to the day in which the sun never sets. (Isaiah 60:20)

Speaking on an earthly plain I recall my good father and happy memories of him telling us stories of his time spent in the Army. Dad was stationed in Alaska during the Korean conflict in the town of Fairbanks, which was a few miles south of the Arctic circle. It was called “The Land of the Midnight Sun.” Between the months of early June and mid-July there was a constant sunlight. This, I think, is a foreshadowing of what the scripture speaks about of our time in eternity. Being with Jesus, who is the light of the world, and the day spring of all eternity is foreshadowed in the canticle of Zachariah. Here we read: “All this is the work of the kindness of our God; He, the day spring, shall visit us in his mercy. To shine on those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79)

Most of you know by now that I go to confession once a week. During this season of Advent, I have added times for confessions for your convenience. Please take advantage of these sacramental opportunities. The power that comes to the soul that avails itself of the reconciliation/penance is very powerful. I learned at a conference on healing that there is more Divine power in confession than when the Church has the need to pray the prayers of exorcism over tormented souls. At first, I thought, “this can't be so”, but then I realized that penance is a sacrament and exorcism prayers are what we call “sacramental.” It's the grace that is poured into the soul during the words of absolution that is light for the way.

When I go to the Shrine for confession, I always walk through the southeast side door. Why? Because right above the door is a biblical quote from Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It says: “there was a time when you were in darkness, but now you are the light in the Lord. Well, then walk as children of the light.”

For some reason the passage has always spoken to me. I think that the theme of light has pervaded my spiritual life as I strive to be a disciple of Jesus. Light produces all types of goodness and it is through that light of the Holy Spirit that we come to know who we really are.

Today the sun will set at 4:43 pm. In a few days we will begin to gain minutes of sunlight. It is the darkest time of the year but it is also a time to look to Jesus who said: “While you have the light, keep faith in the light; thus, you will become sons/daughters of light.”

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION

"FILL THE MANGER"

Let's help the Ladies of Charity with their Family Advent Project, "Fill the Manger." Please bring non-perishable food to class between now and Christmas to help the needy families in our area. We learned the meaning of the word "manger" in our prayer service this past weekend-so we are blessed to eat This Bread of heaven at every Mass! No greater blessing!! We in turn, share our blessings with others to help "Fill the Manger."

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

MSYG meets this Friday, December 14th from 6:30 to 8:30 in the Religious Ed Center. All 6th through 8th graders are welcome to come to our "Keep Christ in Christmas" night.

LIFE TEEN

Our next Life Night is Saturday, December 22nd: Christmas Feasting, Caroling, and Gift Exchange! All high school youth are invited to help spread Christ's love through music and song as we bring the Christmas message of hope, peace and joy to the town of North Beach!

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Looking for a place to donate this Christmas? How about helping to send a youth to summer camp? This summer we are taking a coach bus to Camp Cove Crest in Daholonega, Georgia for Life Teen Summer Camp. So far we have 18 youth signed up (with 12 spots remaining.) Some of the youth are in need of full and partial scholarships. Life Teen gives our youth an incredible opportunity to experience the Catholic Faith in a fun and powerful way. It is led by young dynamic Catholic Missionaries, Priests, and Religious. They offer high adventure rope courses, white water rafting, as well as daily Mass, Confessions and Adoration. Contact Mary Beth Woodburn at 443-646-5721 or go to LifeTeen.com if you have questions. Thank you in advance for investing in our youth and for your generosity!
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME: A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND

Fr. Stack and the Franciscan Friars are offering a trip to the Holy Land for only \$2,895 plus tax and fuel charge, **May 14th through the 24th, 2019**. The price includes economy class airfare from Washington Dulles to Tel Aviv, 9 nights hotel accommodations (double occupancy, including taxes and service charges), breakfast and dinner daily, special Middle Eastern farewell dinner at the Christmas Hotel in Jerusalem, comprehensive sightseeing with a licensed Christian guide, all entrance fees as per itinerary, whisper headsets, land transportation by deluxe motor coach, arrival and departure transfers; group flights only and portage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels. Register online at: www.tektonministries.org with a deposit of only \$300. If you have any questions see the flyers at the back of the church or call **Ginger Geisler at 443-964-8301**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Chrissy Baxter, Vicki Baxter, JB, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Florence, Marlene Bradshaw, Dominic Brady, Jack Bragger, Jeff Carr, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Jimmy Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Wlaine Cunnane, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Jo Finch, Linda Foresta, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Lindsey Jay, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, JoAnn Kery, Richard Knupp, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Maude Mangels, Margie Edwards Morgan, Sarah Olsen, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Babies Ace and Troy Remer, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Betty Theurer, Carolyn Vargas, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Chelsea Whittington, Shannon Wink, Sue White.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 17TH, 2018

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Zephaniah urges the people of Jerusalem to rejoice because the Lord is in their midst. He conveys the message that God will love and protect those who have remained faithful to him.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Paul encourages the Philippians to be ready for Christ. He tells them not to worry about their concerns, but to instead ask God's help and allow His peace to fill their hearts and minds.

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist answers people who ask him what they should do, leading some to believe he was the Messiah. John clearly states that he will be followed by one so powerful that "I am not fit to loosen His sandal strap."

Contributions and Donations

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

December 2nd — \$7,613.50
Christmas Flowers—\$1,926.00

"Giving Tree" gifts are due back by next weekend, December 15th and 16th.
Thank you for your generosity!

FAITH DIRECT

Simple, Secure and Convenient.

Visit www.faithdirect.net to enroll,
or pick up a form in the back of the church.
Our parish code is MD768.