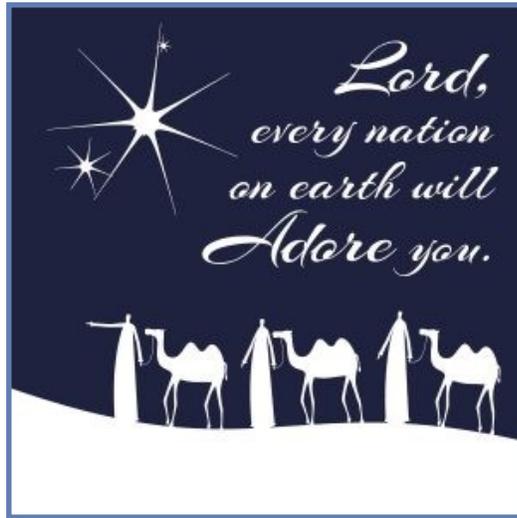




Word traveled quickly. What had originally been known only to Mary, then to Joseph, and soon shared with intimate friends like Mary's cousin Elizabeth, was revealed to the shepherds on the night of Jesus' birth, and now to foreigners—the magi from the east. Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior, has been born! Let us rejoice, for his saving presence has been made manifest to all.



Readings for this Week (January 6-11)

Monday:	1 John 3:22—4:6	Mt. 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday:	1 John 4:7-10;	Mark 6:34-44
Wednesday:	1 John 4:11-18;	Mark 6:45-52
Thursday:	1 John 4:19—5:4;	Luke 4:14-22a
Friday:	1 John 5:5-13;	Luke 5:12-16
Saturday:	1 John 5:14-21;	John 3:22-30

Scripture for next Sunday
(Baptism of the Lord)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Here is my servant.

Acts 10:34-38

God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.

Matthew 3:13-17

The Spirit of God descends like a dove.

The Son of God is gradually revealed to the world. Isaiah speaks of the servant of the Lord who brings justice and compassion. Peter preaches to a group of Gentiles, telling them that God was with Jesus as he brought hope and healing to all people. Finally, we hear the Father's voice from the heavens at Jesus' baptism: ***"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*** May we see him revealed in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in each other.

from the
Pastor's desk

On December 16th, the Pew Research Center released an interesting study. They did a survey on sermons and homilies they found from churches that post either audio or video versions of the sermons on line. I am using the term sermon, because the study included Catholic and Protestant churches. I wonder if St. Anne's was included in their survey since we do post homilies on our website.

The study listed two conclusions about Catholic homilies. On average they are shorter than Protestant sermons and they are somewhat light on Scripture. That is not what I want to be hearing about Catholic homilies, but it is good to read and hopefully learn from this. I hope more priests and deacons will pay attention to it.

I would first like to comment on the first conclusion. Catholic homilies are shorter than the sermons heard in Protestant churches. I do not find any problem with this as long as the homilies are not without substance. As long as the homily gives people something solid that explains the Mass readings and gives people something to think about throughout the week, then it does not matter how long it is. In fact, I think people are more likely to remember what they heard in a ten minute homily as opposed to something two or three times as long. Some people believe coming to church is all about preaching, but the homily is only a small part of our liturgy. The greatest focus should always be on the sacrament.

Second, I would like to comment on the conclusion that homilies are light on Scripture. If this is true, then it is definitely an area where our Church can do better. Homilies do not have to be long, but they should definitely be teaching the Scriptures. They should be inspiring people to spend more time reading Sacred Scripture. I like to use my homilies to address current events or speak to the needs of a parish, but I also believe they should always be grounded in the Scriptures. In fact, I will use every opportunity I have to teach the importance of spending time reading the Scriptures. Even if someone spends no more than the length of the average Catholic homily reading the Scriptures each day, this is enough to help us all grow in our faith each day.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
RCIA

- **Catechumens & Candidates** will meet today, **Sunday, January 5, in the Great Room, 9:45am-11:15am.**
- **Inquirers** will meet in the office conference room after opening prayer in the **Great Room at 9:45am.**
- **Children's RCIA** will gather in the hallway by the **Great Room at 9:45am** before going to class.

For more information about RCIA please contact Sydney Farnum at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 or sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.

Bereavement Committee members are reminded of our meeting this **Monday, January 6, at 10 a.m.** in the Saint Vincent de Paul Center.

"First" Tuesday
Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament

This Tuesday—January 7th

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

(in the Chapel)



Begin the New Year in prayer with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament—Join us for First Tuesday Adoration beginning after the 8:30 a.m. Mass this Tuesday and concluding with Benediction at 9 p.m.

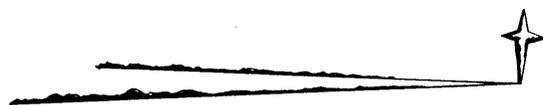
"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us."

(St. Alphonsus Liguori)

Prayer Shawl Ministry members are reminded of our gathering on **Wednesday, January 8 at 10 a.m.** in the Saint Vincent de Paul Center. New members are always welcome to join us!

Parish Life Committee members are reminded of our meeting on **Wednesday, January 8 at 6:30 p.m.** in the church office Conference Room. **NOTE:** New location for our meeting—enter building at the church office.

PARISH DIRECTORIES: As this bulletin goes to press, it is our understanding that the Parish Directories should arrive "any day now"... so perhaps by the time you are reading this bulletin, they will have arrived! If so, we'll add to our oral announcements before the Masses.



Shine Like Stars

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond
200th Anniversary (1820-2020)

History of the Diocese of Richmond
Including all Parishes in the Diocese
Bicentennial Book

If you haven't yet purchased a copy of this beautiful book celebrating the Diocese of Richmond's 200th anniversary, we have copies in the parish office—the cost is only \$35.

MASS COORDINATORS NEEDED

We are in need of more folks
willing to serve our parish
as Mass Coordinators!

What does a Mass Coordinator do?

—These are the very important "behind the scenes" folks who are here before Mass begins to set up the vessels needed for Mass, to be sure the other liturgical ministers have come as assigned, and to put out the hosts and wine needed to be consecrated for Holy Communion at Mass.

—There is a check sheet that you follow to help you with the set-up and you will be trained individually with a "partner" who has done the ministry for a number of years. If you might be interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Rosie in the parish office at 276-669-8200 ext. 0 or email her at stannes@stannes-bristol.org.



Many thanks to:

Rose Marie & Bill Burriss

Marilyn & Tony Broglio

for again this year being our co-sponsors of
the Catholic Calendars!

2020 CATHOLIC CALENDARS

The Catholic Calendars for 2020 were on the tables in the commons this past week for our Masses on December 31 and January 1 for the Solemnity of Mary Holy Day Masses. If you were not here for a Holy Day Mass and would like a Catholic Calendar for this New Year, stop by the table in the commons.



Saturday, January 4 (*Vigil: Epiphany*)

5:30 p.m. †Betty Williams

Sunday, January 5 (*Epiphany*)

8:30 a.m. †Robert Rhymer

11:30 a.m. †Ron Davis

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)

Tuesday, January 7

8:30 a.m. †Betty P. Miller and †Ann P. Rogers

Wednesday, January 8

8:30 a.m. †Boyd Herman

Thursday, January 9

6:00 p.m. †Jonathan Mendoza-Onate

Friday, January 10

8:30 a.m. †Pat Hall

Saturday, January 11 (*Vigil: Baptism of the Lord*)

5:30 p.m. †Robert Hallee

Sunday, January 12 (*Baptism of the Lord*)

8:30 a.m. †Emilia Cruz

11:30 a.m. †Pat Hall

2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)



Collection Report

Regular Operating (Dec. 21/22) & add'l	\$ 12,861.00
Add'l School 2nd collection	\$ 428.00
Add'l Immaculate Conception	\$ 13.00
Add'l Social Ministry 2nd collection	\$ 343.00
Christmas Holy Day	\$ 16,581.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	\$ 4,818.00

Upcoming 2nd Collections:

This weekend (Jan. 4/5)	St. Anne's School
January 18/19	Respect Life
Feb. 1 & 2	St. Anne's School
February 23/24	Bristol Faith In Action

2019 Tax Statements: We will be working on printing the end-of-year statements soon and our hope is to have them available to be picked up in the commons by the weekend of January 18/19.

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

Sunday, January 5

- **SMARE (Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education) Jesus Revealed-Encountering Jesus in his Biblical Names- "True Vine" 9:45am-11:00am in the School Library.** Everyone is welcome, there is no need to sign up. Next Sunday, January 12: "*Dawn from On High*".
- **RCIA meets in the Great Room, 9:45am-11:00am.**

Monday, January 6:

- **Monday Adult Faith Formation: Pillar 3 of the Catechism— "Life in Christ". 1:00pm-2:30pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Center.**

Tuesday, January 7:

- **Book Club: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist. 10:30am-11:30am at the St. Vincent de Paul Center.**
- **Tuesday Evening Scripture Study, 6:30pm-8:00pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Center. "Presence: The Mystery of the Eucharist".**

Wednesday, January 8

- **Wednesday Scripture Study this week. "Gospel According to John". 1:00-2:30pm at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. All are welcome to join the group!**
- **Wednesday Prayer Group, 2:45-3:45pm in the Saint Vincent de Paul Center. All are welcome to join us for an hour of prayer!**

For more information about any of the above programs, email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call her at 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Married Couples Retreat

March 20/21/22 or March 27/28/29

Priestfield Retreat Center in Kearneysville, WV

For more information, call Elaine Galeone at 410-252-5355 or email retreat2020@gmail.com.

**St. Anne's
Friendship Club**



St. Anne's Friendship Club will meet on **Thursday, January 16, at 11:30 a.m.** at the **Olive Garden** Restaurant at Exit 7. Please call Gina Rossetti, 423-878-7827, by Tuesday, January 14 to reserve our spot for lunch. New members are always welcome to join us!

Looking Ahead just a bit:

- ♦ *Christmas Season ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.*
- ♦ Tuesday, Jan. 14th—Mass at 8:30 a.m. but no Adoration and no confessions on Jan. 14.



Poinsettias

In addition to the memorials/honorariums listed in last Sunday's bulletin, donations were also received:

- In loving memory of deceased members of the ***Arnold and Fabiani families*** given by Rita M. Arnold
- In loving memory of deceased members of the ***Dutcher and Heffner families*** given by Miriam Dutcher

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- ⇒ **Bristol Faith in Action (BFIA)** needs volunteers to do reception, appointment setting, data entry, and interviewing. Stop in for a volunteer application at 1534 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA or call 276-466-8292.
- ⇒ **St. Anne's Bingo** — volunteers are needed to help with the parish bingo on Saturday & Tuesday evenings and the school bingo on Monday evening. To learn more or to volunteer to help with Bingo, contact the parish office at stannes@stannes-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 0.

Pray for Vocations!!

“Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts.”

Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? Call Father Brian Capuano at 804-359-5661 or email him at vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Sign up in the commons this weekend or next

**To donate blood:
Wednesday, January 15
2 p.m.—6:30 p.m.**



**Give Blood.
Give Life.**

Theology on Tap - January 15th for Young Adults

Young Adult Catholics (age 21 to 35-ish) are invited to come learn more about their faith and to share in the Catholic community. Next gathering is **Wed., Jan 15th** at Bristol Station, **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** If you **NEED a NURSERY** available here at the parish, please contact the parish office (276-669-8200 ext. 0) NLT 3pm on Tuesday, Jan. 14. If no one requests the nursery we won't ask our nursery workers to be here on the 15th..