

During Advent, we prepare for Christ's coming in three ways: as an infant who came into this world over 2000 years ago, as our Lord and Savior coming into our hearts right here and now, and as the Son of Man who will come into this world again at the end of time. We do not know when the last of these will occur, so this season is a good opportunity to focus on preparing our hearts for Jesus now, perhaps by looking for His face in those we encounter.



Readings for this Week (Dec. 3-7)

MONDAY: Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 8:5-11
TUESDAY: Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24
WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37
THURSDAY: Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27
FRIDAY (Holy Day Vigil): Gn. 3:9-15, 20; Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Scripture for next Sunday (2nd Sunday/Advent)

Baruch 5:1-9

God is leaving Israel in joy.

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

May your love increase ever more.

Luke 3:1-6

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Next Sunday's readings are unfailingly positive, hopeful for the future. Baruch assures Jerusalem that God is leading its exiled people back home. Saint Paul is smitten with the Philippians, confident that they will be found worthy by God. Saint Luke introduces St. John the Baptist, who has emerged from the desert to prepare the people for baptism and forgiveness. A new day is dawning. Truly, as the psalmist sings, *we are filled with joy.*

PARACLETE CATHOLIC BOOKSTORE

(from Knoxville)

In the Great Room (this weekend!! Dec. 1 & 2)

Stop in after Mass for Catholic religious items,
Advent items, Christmas gifts and more!!

"Box of Joy"

Thank you to everyone who filled a box or two or who donated money to fill a box. Thank you to the Junior High students and catechists for putting the boxes together to get them ready for shipping.

PARISH NURSERY

The Parish Nursery is open for your little ones (infant to First Grade) during the 11:30a Mass on Sunday, during RCIA and Choir on Wednesday evenings, and on Sunday at 9:30a for parents who either teach in one of our Sunday morning religious education programs or attend Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class.

Pastor's Notes

Recently, Pope Francis addressed a group of musicians and choir members that gathered at the Vatican from around the world. In his comments the pope said, "*sacred music points to the beauty of paradise.*" That made me think about the role music in general plays in our lives.

Have you ever wondered why musicians are referred to as artists? With some of them, it seems pretty obvious, others, not so much. One reason is the way music inspires us. Most people can easily recall songs or musical compositions that have inspired them, moved them to tears, or brought about some kind of emotional response. That is what art does for us. Musicians are referred to as artists because like so many painters, sculptors, authors, and poets, they have created something that defines the human experience. They create something that is able to speak to us in our lives, and we see things that remind us of our own life experience, or give us inspiration to seek greatness in our lives.

I have to admit, there are even some musicians, or some styles of music I don't particularly care for, but they are still very popular, because they speak to a group of people with life experiences different from my own. That's why our parents did not always appreciate the music we love, and some of us do not always appreciate the music of younger generations. It is because our experiences are different from theirs.

Some people have asked me why we don't use more modern music during Mass. Some have suggested that what we need to attract more people to our liturgy, particularly young people is to introduce more upbeat, modern music that will inspire them. I'd like to offer a brief reflection on why I disagree. No one, including our youth, are coming to Mass to hear music, or a style of music they can hear anywhere. They are not coming to experience anything that can be experienced elsewhere. They are coming to this holy liturgy to experience that which cannot be experienced anywhere else.

Yes, music is a very important part of who we are, and the music we listen to every day speaks to our identity and human experience. As important as this is to who we are, our liturgy is about so much more than our human experience. The liturgy is about transcending the human experience of this world, and seeking an encounter with the divine. Our liturgy is a reminder that we are a part of something greater than anything we will experience in this world. When we gather for the celebration of the Mass, it does involve our human experiences, but it is so much more about the anticipation of what we will experience when we are united with Christ for eternity. That is not something that can be defined entirely by what we experience on this earth, and that is why the music that is a part of our liturgy is not like the music we hear anywhere else.

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

- **Sun., Dec. 2—Youth Group (BYC 6:00-8:00 p.m.)**
 - The New Testament
 - **Confirmation Class**
- **Sun., Dec. 9—Youth Group (BYC 6:00-8:00 p.m.)**
 - More Than Meets the Eye
 - **Confirmation Class**
- **Sun., Dec. 16—Youth Group (BYC 6:00-8:00p.m.)**
 - Christmas Caroling
- **Sun., Dec. 23—NO SHYM**
 - Merry Christmas!

**Youth March for Life Pilgrimage
January 17 & 18**

SHYM will attend the March for Life which is held in Washington D.C. The March for Life marks the anniversary of the landmark decision of the Supreme Court in Roe vs. Wade which makes abortion legal in the United States.

Please contact Laura Cochrane

if you have any questions and to register!

276-492-3095 / lauracochrane@stannes-bristol.org

Registration Deadline: December 16! Cost: \$25

**Diocesan Youth conference (DYC)
February 8-10, 2019**

The Diocesan Youth Conference is a weekend event held each year to gather high school youth (Gr. 9-12) from all 145 parishes in the Richmond Diocese. The Conference is a highly energetic, engaging, and awesome opportunity for our teens to gather as a larger Church community and celebrate the amazing richness of our Catholic Christian faith. **Super early Bird Registration is now \$150:** includes travel, lodging, and meals. To register, contact Laura at lauracochrane@stannes-bristol.org or 276-492-3095.

Early Bird Deadline: December 18!

“First” Tuesday

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament

This Tuesday (December 4) is our monthly **“1st” Tuesday ADORATION** in the Chapel, beginning after the 8:30a Mass and ending with Benediction at 9 p.m. We need to be sure the Blessed Sacrament is not left alone. Sign up in the commons this weekend or plan to “stop in”. **Spending time in prayer with our Lord is a great way to begin this first week of Advent!!**



The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all of our parishioners who purchased Christmas Cards, ornaments, and bumper magnets. This was a successful fundraiser and we appreciate our support to **Keep Christ in Christmas!** (There are still a few items left... if interested, contact a Knight of Columbus.)

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Don't forget!!! If you took a tag from our Giving Tree, we need the gifts back in the Commons next Sunday, Dec. 9!! **PLEASE...**

***Return** unwrapped gifts in gift bag with tissue paper
***Include** in the gift a Christmas card with wishes and signed St. Anne Catholic Church

***It is critical** the ornament is attached to the gift bag!

This is our only way to identify what gift goes to what person and agency. Thank you for your contribution to make someone's Christmas a merry one!

Christmas Cards (sponsored by American Red Cross)

We are collecting Christmas cards to be distributed to **our local veterans, firefighters, emergency responders and police officers.** There is a box in the commons thru Dec. 9 for your cards. The Red Cross' instructions are:

- Sign your FIRST name & St. Anne Catholic Church
- Write a note of thanks for their dedicated service.
- Do **NOT** include e-mail or home addresses
- Do **NOT** include any inserts (such as photos etc.)
- **PLEASE INCLUDE UNSEALED ENVELOPES**

*Thank you for helping us thank
our veterans and first responders!*

Prayer Group meeting this week: Wed., December 5, 2:45pm-3:45pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Center. All are invited to attend. No preparation, no cost. Join us for an hour of prayer!

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA

- **Catechumens & Candidates** will meet this **Wednesday, Dec. 5,** in the Great Room. 6:30-8:00pm.
- **Inquirers** will meet in the church office conference room. Stop by the Great Room for opening prayer at **6:30p.**
- **Children's RCIA** will gather in the Great Room before going to class at **6:30 p.m.**

RCIA Notes: The preparations for Christmas include buying or making gifts for those whom we love. You can give no better gift than the gift that God has given to us: his Son, Jesus. Invite someone who is not Catholic to attend Mass with you at Christmas. For more information about our RCIA, please contact Sydney Farnum at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

Parish Pastoral Council: PPC members are reminded of their meeting this Thurs., Dec. 6, 7pm, School Conf.Rm.

Respect Life Committee members are reminded of our meeting this **Saturday, Dec. 8, at 10:30 a.m.,** in the office conference room. New members are always welcome to join us!

Mass Intentions
for the Week 

Saturday, December 1 (*Vigil: 1st Sunday/Advent*)
5:30 p.m. †Markus "Max" Reich

Sunday, December 2 (*1st Sunday of Advent*)
8:30 a.m. †Jason Hearl
11:30 a.m. Spec. Int.: 64th Anniv.: John & Peggy Jenkins
2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)

Tuesday, December 4
8:30 a.m. †Ronnie Davenport

Wednesday, December 5
8:30 a.m. †Eugene Inge

Thursday, December 6
6:00 p.m. †Vicente Pham Minh Hung

Friday, December 7 (*Immaculate Conception Holy Day Vigil*)
7:00 p.m. "Special Intention"

Saturday, December 8 (*Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent*)
5:30 p.m. †Francis J. Finan, Jr.

Sunday, December 9 (*2nd Sunday of Advent*)
8:30 a.m. †Stephen Vargo
11:30 a.m. †Gene Stewart
2:00 p.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass*)

NOTE: No 7:30a Mass this Friday, Dec. 7. Our Mass Friday will be the Holy Day (Immaculate Conception) Vigil Mass at 7 p.m. (There will NOT be a Holy Day Mass on Dec. 8. The 5:30p Mass on December 8 is the vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Advent.)

E-Giving Report (Nov. 1-16, 2018)

Regular/Operating:	\$4,300	All Saints/Holy Day:	\$ 73
Debt Reduction:	\$ 220	Military Archdiocese:	\$118
School/2nd collection:	\$ 380	Disaster Relief:	\$ 20

Collection Report (Nov. 17/18 and Nov. 24/25)

Regular/Oper. Nov. 17/18:	\$8,542	Health Wagon:	\$ 20
Regular/Oper. Nov. 24/25:	\$9,061.50	World Missions:	\$ 20
School/2nd collection:	\$ 313	Military/ArchD.:	\$ 80
Debt Reduction:	\$ 250	T'giv. Baskets:	\$150

December 2nd Collections

Dec. 1 & 2	St. Anne Catholic School
Dec. 15/16	St. Anne's Social Ministry/Outreach
Dec. 24/25	Commonwealth Catholic Charities

(2nd collections are taken up during the Offertory, immediately following our regular operating collection.)

NOTE: There will be a Holy Day collection taken up at the Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass on Friday evening, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. **Holy Day collections are for our operating fund.**
—At our Christmas Eve & Day Masses (Dec. 24/25) the first collection at the Offertory will be the Christmas Holy Day offering; followed by the 2nd collection for Catholic Charities.

Year-End Gift Using Your IRA: Consider a charitable donation from your IRA to our parish! IRA owners age 70 1/2 and older can direct gifts from IRA accounts straight to the parish through December 31, 2018. The qualified gifts count as a required minimum distribution from an IRA and is excluded from taxpayer income. Contact Deacon Steve for more details (276-591-5375).

This Week in Adult Faith Formation

Sunday, December 2:

- **Sunday Morning Religious Education (SMARE): Mary, Part 2.** 9:45-11:00am. In the SCHOOL LIBRARY this week.

Monday, December 3:

- **NO Monday Adult Faith Formation** this week.

Tuesday, December 4:

- **Book Club:** 10:30-11:30a, at the St. Vincent de Paul Center. *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis
- **Tuesday Evening Scripture Study** meets **6:30-8:00p** St. Vincent de Paul Ctr. *The Biblical Roots of Advent*

Wednesday, December 5:

- **Little Rock Scripture Study**, 1:00-2:30pm, St. Vincent de Paul Center. *The Gospel According to Luke*
- **RCIA** 6:30 p.m. in the Great Room.

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

SMARE—Sunday Morning

Adult Religious Education Class:

Next Sunday, Dec. 9, Apostolic Fathers, Part 1. SMARE meets Sundays in the **Great Room, 9:45a-11am.** Coffee and doughnuts at 9:45am and the presentation begins at **9:50am.** No preparation-No sign-up-needed. Everyone welcome to attend any Sunday.

Formed.org (Church code: 24Q8G9) —Register this week to have unlimited access to high quality religious education that you can enjoy in the comfort of your home!

The Biblical Roots of Advent

Tuesday Evenings during Advent

6:30pm-8:00pm in the St. Vincent de Paul Center

Please join us as we explore the relevant topics of Advent...

- The Problems of Advent
- How we can enter into the Mystery of Advent
- John the Baptist and Preparation
- The First Coming of the Messiah and the Second Advent of Jesus at the End of Time

No sign-up/preparation required. Series is DVD based, part of Dr. Brant Pitre's bible studies. All are welcome!

Lighthouse Catholic Media CD — CD of the week:

"Full of Grace—The Message of the Angel". Renowned speaker, author, musician Vinny Flynn makes the angel's message at the Annunciation come alive with meaning and relevance by delving into Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and the writings of St. John Paul II. Vinny helps listeners understand the deeper significance of the words of the Hail Mary prayer and the angel's greeting, offering penetrating insights into the role of our Blessed Mother in God's plan of salvation. Find this CD and others at the display in the commons. \$3 donation/CD appreciated.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **Sunday School of Religion Children** will be putting on a play, "The First Christmas". It will be held **Saturday, December 15 at 6:45 p.m.** at St. Anne Catholic Church.

Best Advent Ever!

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with **BEST ADVENT EVER**. Each day, you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos from Allen Hunt and Dominick Albano, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey. Plus, every Sunday during the program, you'll receive a thought-provoking video reflection that will help you understand how the Gospel relates to your own life. All you have to do is sign up at **BestAdventEver.com**.

St. Anne's School is looking for **Substitute Teachers**. Must be VIRTUS trained. If interested, call 276-669-0048.

KofC November Family of the Month: *Clint & Judy Smith*

KofC November Knight of the Month: *Jim Kosinski*

Christmas Masses: Dec. 24 at 4p, 6:30p, (9p/Spanish) & 12Midnight; Dec. 25 at 10 a.m. (incense at all except 4p)



HOLY DAY VIGIL MASS

***Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

**Friday, December 7
7 p.m.**

*(This 7p Mass on Friday evening is the ONLY Mass celebrated here for the Immaculate Conception)
(no Holy Day Mass on Dec. 8)*

There will be incense used

TREE LIGHTING and Refreshments

We will again "light up" the outside tree and enjoy refreshments in the Great Room after the Holy Day Vigil Mass this coming Friday, Dec. 7. Plan to stay after Mass for fellowship!

Advent Penance Service — Dec. 13th

Several priests will be here for individual confessions. Join us for the service on **Thursday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.**