

“Repent”, John the Baptist cried out, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand”. He told the people of Judea that to prove their sincerity, they should produce good fruit.

We should heed his call... To prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming, we can begin with an examination of conscience.

Let us see when and how we have failed to produce good fruit and commit to bearing good fruit in the future.



Readings for this Week (Dec. 9-14)

- Monday:** (Solemnity) Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 1:28-30
Thursday: (Feast) Zech. 2:14-17 (or) Rev. 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:39-47
Friday: (Memorial) 2 Cor. 10:17--11:2; Matthew 25:1-13
Saturday: (Memorial) I Cor. 2:1-10a; Luke 14:25-33

Scripture for next Sunday

3rd Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The desert will bloom.

James 5:7-10

Be patient like a farmer waiting for spring.

Matthew 11:2-11

In prison, John received word of the coming of Christ.

Isaiah sings a song of rebirth next Sunday, describing Israel after the exile. Flowers bloom, disabilities are healed, sorrow turns to joy. The letter of James counsels us to be patient during this transformation. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds John's disciples that he has done just what Isaiah prophesied. What's more, the kingdom of heaven promises greatness for all. As we hear God's word, let us rejoice, for we know that God is with us!



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Monday, December 9
Holy Day Mass—7 p.m.
(incense will be used)**

Not an obligatory Holy Day this year

**Outside Tree Lighting
& Refreshments in Great Room**
will follow the 7 p.m. Holy Day Mass
Monday evening

From the Pastor's Desk

As a priest I am required to make a spiritual retreat every year. While this can seem like a chance to take time off and have a bit of a vacation, it is actually much more. In some ways a retreat is like a vacation. It is a chance to get away from our normal routines, get some rest, and simply recharge ourselves. A retreat is a chance to get away from our normal routine and recharge spiritually. There are many ways to do this.

I chose to write about this because while I am required to do this, it is by no means restricted to priests or those in religious life. In fact, it is something I recommend for everyone. Whether it is for a week, a weekend, or even a few days in the middle of the week, it is a tremendous spiritual benefit for all. As I said there are many ways to do this and I will offer a few suggestions.

There are a number of retreat centers that offer guided retreats for groups. This is a chance to spend time with a group of people focusing on prayer and spiritual growth. This is good for anyone not familiar with making retreats, because everything will be laid out for them.

Some people prefer to make an individual or private retreat. While I enjoy group retreats, I also enjoy being able to make a retreat by myself where I have to just enjoy simple prayer and contemplation. This can be done at a retreat center, a monastery, or really any location, but I would suggest a place without distraction that will focus on spirituality in some way.

My final suggestion is to remember that it is called a retreat for a reason. Whether you choose a silent retreat or one with active discussion, it is important to remove distractions. My normal practice while on retreat is to turn my phone off and leave it off when on retreat. One of the best benefits of a retreat is being able to enjoy spiritual growth while being unplugged from phones, email, and other social media and learn how little we actually need that.



Second Sunday of Advent

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA

- Catechumens & Candidates will meet today, **Sunday, December 8, 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 at 276-669-8200 or sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

- **Dec. 8—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Leaving Our Nets
 - **Confirmation Class**
- **Dec. 15—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Caroling
- **Dec. 22—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- **Dec. 29—NO SHYM (Merry Christmas!)**

Senior High Youth Ministry Essay Contest

(sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 6695)

Winners: 1st place—Olivia Cochrane Gr. 12 — \$300
2nd place—Andrew Cochrane Gr. 9 — \$100

Congratulations!

(Stay tuned—the 1st place essay will be in the bulletin soon)

SHYM would like to THANK the KofC for their sponsorship & dedication to this contest, especially John Flanagan, Greg Chudzik, and Clint Smith!

Sr. High/Jr. High Youth Ministry Fundraiser

SHYM & JHYM offers you the opportunity to purchase a variety of Catholic medals, crucifix necklaces, bracelets, and other faith-inspired jewelry. 50% of all proceeds go directly to our Youth Ministry. Stop by the tables in the hall by the Great Room after Mass this weekend (Dec. 7/8).

We can't take orders due to the rotation of stock from the company! Your support will help us to purchase a set of hand chimes for our youth program. Donations accepted and greatly appreciated. **Thank you for your support!**

Junior High Youth Ministry (Grades 7 & 8)

- **Dec. 8—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
- **Dec. 15—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Caroling
- **Dec. 22—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
 - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- **Dec. 29—NO JHYM (Merry Christmas!)**

Advent Materials available: Be sure to stop by the religious education table in the commons to pick up some spiritual reading during Advent. All materials are free (except the Lighthouse CDs — \$3.00 donation per CD—thank you.)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this Tuesday, December 10, 9:00am-4:30pm

Please stop by the chapel for prayer any time during the day and join us for Benediction at 4:30pm.

NO Prayer Shawl ministry this week! We will have our luncheon next Wednesday, **December 18**, at the Monsignor Hickie Center at 11 a.m.



Children's Choir for Christmas Eve

The St. Anne's Children's Choir will rehearse Wednesday, December 11 & Wednesday, December 18 at 3:20 p.m. The rehearsals will last around 30 minutes.

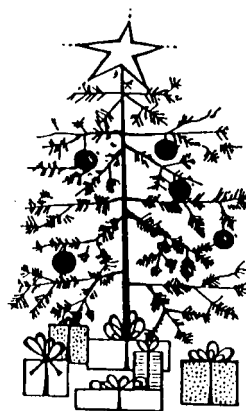
The Children's Choir will sing for the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. Any 2nd to 8th grade children are encouraged to sing. I am expecting a great turnout this year and the kids will get to sing some new and exciting Christmas songs. If you have any questions, please contact:

*Chris Neal
423-268-1520*

NO Parish Life Committee meeting this month!

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Dec. 12

There will not be our regular 6pm weekday Mass this Thursday. Mass this Tuesday, December 12 will be the **Spanish Mass at 7 p.m.** for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The Giving Tree

Don't Forget!!

If you took any ornaments from the ***Giving Tree*** be sure to return the items no later than 3 p.m. next Sunday, December 15.

Purchase the item(s) listed on the ornament, and place them (unwrapped) in Gift Bags with some tissue paper.

BE SURE to affix the ornament to the outside of the gift bag!!

St. Anne's Friendship Club will meet **Thurs., Dec. 19 at 11:30a** at **Cheddar's** (exit 7). Please call Gina Rossetti at 423-878-7827 by this Tuesday, Dec. 17 to reserve your spot for lunch. New members are always welcome to join us!

Mass Intentions
for the Week 

Sat., Dec. 7 (*Vigil: 2nd Sunday of Advent*)
5:30 p.m. † Betty Williams

Sun., Dec. 8 (*2nd Sunday of Advent*)
8:30 a.m. † Fred Eaton
11:30 a.m. † Vincent Thach B. Pham
2:00 p.m. Parishioners

Mon., Dec. 9 (*Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*)
7:00 p.m. † Francis J. Finan, Jr.

Tues., Dec. 10
8:30 a.m. † Jenifer Kelly

Wed., Dec. 11
8:30 a.m. † Pat Hall

Thurs., Dec. 12 (*Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe*)
7:00 p.m. † Emilia Cruz (*Spanish Mass*)

Fri., Dec. 13
8:30 a.m. † Betty P. Miller & family

Sat., Dec. 14 (*Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent*)
5:30 p.m. † Regina C. Finan

Sun., Dec. 15 (*3rd Sunday of Advent*)
8:30 a.m. † Slawomir Lenzioszek
11:30 a.m. † Diane M. Blackburn
2:00 p.m. Parishioners



Collection Report (Nov. 23/24)

Regular/Operating \$8,992.76
Additional School 2nd Collection \$ 109.00
Addt'l: (Military Archdiocese \$13; Immac.Conc. \$5)

Collection Report (Nov. 30/Dec. 1)

Regular/Operating \$11,277.11
School 2nd Collection \$ 4,193.00
Addt'l: (BFIA \$75; All Saints \$2; Mission Coop. \$2)

E-Giving Report (Nov. 19-30)

Regular/Operating \$3,345.00
St. Anne's School 2nd Collection \$ 235.00

Upcoming 2nd Collections:

Dec. 14/15: St. Anne's Social Ministry (outreach)
Dec. 24/25: Commonwealth Catholic Charities

2019 TAX STATEMENTS: Please be sure that any of your end-of-year donations are received in the parish office **by 5pm on December 31, 2019** in order to be included on your 2019 tax statements. Thanks!

(Please note: the collection taken up at the 5:30 Vigil Mass on New Year's Eve is for the 2020 Holy Day... so if you place a donation in that collection basket on Dec. 31 it will be counted and recorded as 01/01/2020.)

This Week in Adult Faith formation:

Sunday, December 8

- **SMARE (Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education) Jesus Revealed—Encountering Jesus in his Biblical Names—“Good Shepherd” - 9:45am-11:00am** in the **School Library**. Everyone welcome, no need to sign up.
Next Sunday, Dec. 15—NO SMARE
- **RCIA meets in the Great Room, 9:45am-11:00am**

Monday, December 9:

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

Tuesday, December 10:

- **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, December 11:

- **Wednesday Scripture Study this week. “Gospel According to John”. 1:00pm-2:30pm, St. Vincent de Paul Center.** All are welcome to join the group!
- **Wednesday Prayer Group, 2:45pm-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 Adult Faith Formation programs, email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

**Justice shall
flourish in
his time, and
fullness of
peace for ever.**

PRAY for VOCATIONS

As John prepared the way of the Lord in the desert, might Jesus be calling you to prepare the way as a priest? Contact Fr. Brian Capuano at the Vocations Office: 804-359-5661 or vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Please take note...

Upcoming Bulletin Deadlines!!

- ⇒ For Dec. 15th bulletin: NLT 12N on Monday, Dec. 9
- ⇒ For Dec. 22nd bulletin: NLT 12N on Monday, Dec. 16
- ⇒ For Dec. 29th bulletin: NLT 2pm on Thursday, Dec. 19
- ⇒ For Jan. 5th bulletin: NLT 2pm on Friday, Dec. 27

A special note...

Thank you for the prayers, Masses, cards, and condolences extended to me following the death of my granddaughter, Jenifer Kelly. You are the greatest.

John Flanagan

PRAYERS REQUESTED

Your prayers are asked for **Rev. Ron Rutkowski**, who died recently in Ohio. Notes may be sent to his cousin, Tommy Sadowski, at 7697 Ragall Pkwy., Cleveland, OH 44130.

**Advent Reconciliation Service
Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m.**

Prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Join us for our Penance Service on Tuesday evening, December 17. Several priests will be here for individual confessions.

Theology on Tap - Dec. 18th

Theology on Tap is an invitation for young adult Catholics (age 21 to 35-ish) to learn more about their faith and to share in the Catholic community. Next gathering will be: **Wednesday, Dec. 18** at **Studio Brew/upstairs** in downtown Bristol, **6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Topic will be: **“The Christmas Story”** (*presented by Fr. Chris*).

IF YOU NEED a NURSERY available here at the parish, **contact the parish office NLT 4pm on Monday, Dec. 16.** If no one requests the nursery we won't ask our nursery workers to be here on the 18th — so please let us know by Dec. 16th if you need the nursery to be open on Dec. 18.

Christmas Season—HOLY DAY Mass Schedule

- * **Christmas Eve** (Vigil: Nativity of the Lord)
English Masses at: **4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 12Midnight**
Spanish Mass at **9 p.m.**
- * **Christmas Day** (Nativity of the Lord)
Mass at **10 a.m.**
(Incense will be used at all except the 4 p.m. Mass)
- * **New Year's Eve** (Vigil: Solemnity of Mary)
Mass at **5:30 p.m.**
- * **New Year's Day** (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God)
Mass at **10 a.m.** *(incense at the 10 a.m.)*

Parish Office Closed: Dec. 24, 25, 26 and Jan. 1