



As we enter the 2nd week of Advent, we are invited to reflect on how prepared we are for the Lord's coming. Are there mountains and obstacles in our path that block our way to holiness? Are there valleys and deserts that bring us low and leave us weak? We turn to God to receive the grace to overcome our troubles and pitfalls and allow us to ready our hearts for Jesus.

Readings for this Week (Dec. 10-15)

Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday: Zechariah 2:14-17; Luke 1:39-47
Thursday: Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15
Friday: Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday: Sirach 48:1-5, 9-11; Mt. 17:9a, 10-13

Scripture for next Sunday

(3rd Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday)

Zephaniah 3:14-18a

The Lord will sing joyfully because of you.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always, for the Lord is near.

Luke 3:10-18

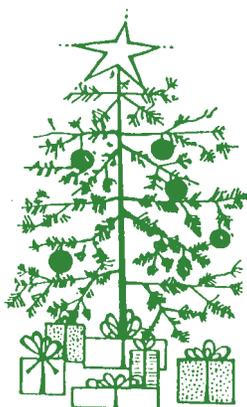
They all asked whether John might be the Christ.

John the Baptist challenges the crowds in next Sunday's Gospel. Eager to follow him, they ask what they should do. John responds with practical guidance: share your food and clothing, act honorably, be honest. We are not told what they do, but are told they were filled with expectation. Next Sunday when we listen to God's word, filled with expectation with a week and a half until Christmas, let us take John's guidance to heart.

The GIVING Tree

If you took a "tag" off our Giving Tree and forgot to bring the gift back this weekend — we **NEED TO HAVE gifts here** in the commons **no later than 3:30p TODAY (Sunday, December 9)**. We'll be sorting and preparing for delivery Monday morning.

Reminder: Gifts should be in a gift bag with the "tag" attached to the outside of the bag. This is the only way we can identify which gift goes to which person/agency.



The Giving Tree

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

From the Pastor 

I read an article a few years ago about Brett Favre after he retired as quarterback for the Green Bay Packers. The article was about his Catholic faith and how important his faith had been to him throughout his career. I always enjoy hearing stories like that. It is always inspiring to hear people talk about their faith and explain the impact it has had on their lives. This is especially true when it comes from someone who is respected and admired by many people.

After reading the article, I was struck by a realization. I had no idea Brett Favre was Catholic. I'm not a huge football fan, but I knew who he was and had followed his career. Still, I had no idea about his faith.

So, why am I choosing to write about this now? I think this is actually a great reflection for Advent. It's a great chance for us all to ask ourselves a question. ***How often do I share my faith? How many people know just how important my faith is to me?*** It is great that we continue to discuss things like how to keep Christ in Christmas and not letting the commercialization of the holiday season distract us from what is really important, but these things will never really have any meaning if we do not start with something much simpler.

This is my challenge for everyone, including myself this Advent. **Simply take a little time to share your faith and let people see just how important this is in all our lives.** Yes, we need to keep promoting the true meaning of Advent and Christmas. I believe the best thing any of us can do to accomplish this is let people see in us just why this is so important. It seems so simple, and in reality it is, but it is also something that could change someone's life.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

We ask your prayers for **Jim "Boo" Worrell**, the brother of Mike Worrell, who passed away recently. Notes of sympathy may be sent to Mike & Bep at 100 Maple Tree Drive, Bristol, TN 37620.

A Special Note...

A very sincere and heartfelt thank you for all the thoughts, calls, cards and prayers regarding Jeff's passing. It is difficult to put into words how much my family and I appreciate the kindness and caring we received, not only now, but in years past. God's blessings to each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Susan Walling

Congratulations and Welcome!

This weekend we welcome **Don & Stephanie Hazard** to the Catholic Church with the **Rite of Full Communion** at the 5:30 Mass. May you know of our prayers and God's abundant blessings as you continue your faith journey in the Catholic Church.

LAST CALL!! - Christmas Cards

(sponsored by American Red Cross)

Remember! Christmas cards for our veterans and first responders are due this weekend (Dec. 8/9). Please place your signed cards in the box in the commons.

- Sign your first name and St. Anne Catholic Church
- A note of thanks for protecting our freedom and keeping us safe
- Do NOT include email 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.

Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)

- **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!
- **Sun., Dec. 30—NO SHYM**
 - Happy New Year!

NO Weekly Adoration this Tuesday

We will not have our weekly Adoration this Tuesday, December 11 due to our school's Christmas program rehearsals and performance that day in the church. Adoration will resume on Tuesday, Dec. 18.

NO Confessions this Tuesday, Dec. 11 as Fr. Chris will be assisting with the Advent Penance Service at St. Mary's in Johnson City on Tuesday evening.

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 is required. This study series is DVD based and part of Dr. Brant Pitre's bible studies. All are welcome!

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe: Wed., Dec. 12

We will celebrate Mass on Wednesday in English at the regular time (8:30a) and also celebrate a Spanish Mass at 7p on Wednesday evening. A meal will follow the Spanish Mass in the Great Room. (*This feast is not a holy day of obligation in the United States.*)

Prayer Shawl members are reminded of our gathering this **Wednesday, December 12, at 10 a.m.** (luncheon and blessing of the prayer shawls) in the St. Vincent de Paul Center and Monsignor Hickie Center. New members are always welcome to join us.

Prayer Group meeting this week: Wed., Dec. 12, 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!

Children's Christmas Choir

Children's choir practice

WED @ 3:20

Dec. 12 & Dec. 19

Any 2nd to 8th-grade children welcome to sing.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults—RCIA

NO RCIA this Wednesday, December 12. Catechumens, Candidates and Inquirers are encouraged to attend one of the ***Our Lady of Guadalupe*** Masses at either 8:30a/English or 7p/Spanish—with a play and dinner afterwards). Regular RCIA classes resume next Wednesday, **December 19** at **6:30pm** in the Great Room. For more information about our RCIA, please contact Sydney Farnum at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE!! No Confessions at 5p and No Mass at 6p this Thursday, Dec. 13—due to our **Advent Penance Service Thursday at 7 p.m.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

“The First Christmas”

“The First Christmas” is being performed by the Sunday School of Religion Children. They invite you to attend the play, which will be held this coming **Saturday, Dec. 15 at 6:45 p.m.** (following the 5:30 Mass). There will be a small reception after the play in the Great Room.

ATTN: Liturgical Ministers! Check your calendars and notify the office **NLT 4p on Wed., Dec. 19** of dates you are unable to serve **from Dec. 29/30 thru end of January.** Pick up new schedules in the commons Dec. 22/23. And if you are able to serve for Christmas Eve (4p, 6:30p, 12M), Christmas Day (10a), Solemnity of Mary Vigil Dec. 31 at (5:30p) or Jan. 1 at 10a, please let us know. **Thanks!!**

Mass Intentions for this Week

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)

Tuesday, December 11

8:30 a.m. Deceased members of the †Pham family

Wednesday, December 12 (*Our Lady of Guadalupe*)

8:30 a.m. †John Paloian (in English)

7:00 p.m. †Emilia Cruz (in Spanish)

Thursday, December 13 (*no weekday Mass due to Pen.Svc.*)

Friday, December 14

7:30 a.m. †Rita Mansfield

Saturday, December 15 (*Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. †Regina C. Finan

Sunday, December 16 (*3rd Sunday of Advent*)

8:30 a.m. †Slawomir Lenzioszek

11:30 a.m. †Diane Blackburn

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

E-Giving Report (Nov. 16-30):

Regular/Operating \$3,300; Holy Day/Immac.Conception \$28;

Holy Day/Christmas \$28; 2nd Collection/School \$330;

Debt Reduction \$100; Military Archdiocese \$ 223;

St. Anne's Social Ministry \$103

Collection Report (December 1 & 2):

Regular/Operating \$11,590.33; 2nd Collection/School \$5,477.63;

Holy Day/Immac.Conc. \$100; Holy Day/Christmas \$300;

Debt Reduction \$70; Catholic Charities \$100; Evangel. \$300;

Giving Tree \$100; Social Ministry \$100; BFIA \$75

December 2nd Collections

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.)

*At our Christmas Eve & Day Masses (Dec. 24/25) the first collection at the Offertory will be the **Christmas Holy Day** offering (which supports our operating fund); followed by the second collection for Catholic Charities.

REMINDER: Donations you wish recorded on your 2018 tax statement need to be received in the office **by Dec. 31.**

FUNDRAISER for BFIA

"Love Came Down" a Christmas Celebration to benefit Bristol Faith in Action (BFIA) with seasonal music by Handel, Bach, Dawson, McCoy, Campbelle, Rutter, and others—on **Sunday, December 16th at 3 p.m.** at Central Presbyterian Church (301 Euclid Ave.) All Are Welcome!!

Formed.org (Church code: 24Q8G9)

Set up your account with your email and check out their Advent materials! Remember...your subscription is already paid through our Church code listed above. If you need help getting registered, contact Sydney at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

Sunday, December 9:

- **Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class (SMARE):** *Apostolic Fathers, Part 1* 945a-11a in the Great Room

Monday, December 10:

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

Tuesday, December 11:

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

Wednesday, December 12:

- **Little Rock Scripture Study**, 1:00-2:30pm in the Saint Vincent de Paul Center. *The Gospel According to Luke*
- **NO RCIA** this week.

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

SMARE—Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class: Next Sunday, Dec. 16, Apostolic Fathers, Part 2. SMARE meets Sundays in the **Great Room, 9:45-11am.** Coffee & doughnuts at 9:45a and the presentation begins at **9:50am.** No preparation-No signup needed. Everyone welcome to attend any Sunday.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs

CD of the week:

***"Prepare the Way of the King—
Making the Most of Advent"***.

Dr. Scott Hahn is one of the most eminent Catholic theologians in our country today. Learn what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your hearts for the birth of our Lord. Find this CD and many more titles at the CD display in the commons. A \$3.00 donation per CD is appreciated and allows us to re-stock with new CDs. Thank you!

From the Diocese:

Following the listening sessions held throughout the diocese in October, Bishop Barry C. Knestout renewed his commitment to leading our diocese with transparency, faith and direct action. A webpage has been created to help the faithful stay informed of the diocese's response to the present crisis in the Church. A video interview with our Bishop as he answers the faithful's most frequently asked questions, a timeline of actions taken with the diocese to address the crisis, and resources to learn how Bishop Knestout is answering the call for accountability is available at www.richmonddiocese.org/diocese-response.



Many thanks to the **Blood Donors** who came to our recent blood drive. We collected 19 units! Thank you for **Giving the Gift of Life!** Mark your calendars for our next Blood Drive on Wednesday, **January 30**.

IRA Rollover: Don't forget! You still have time to make a tax-deductible gift to our parish. If you have an IRA and you're 70 1/2 years old, you can make a gift to St. Anne's parish through an IRA Charitable Rollover. It helps you and helps us. How it helps you: it can lower your taxable income, count towards your minimum distribution, and help you feel good about giving to our parish. How it helps us: we can put your gift to use right away in providing financial support to our ministries throughout the parish. For more information, call your IRA administrator, tax preparer or the parish office.

PRAY for VOCATIONS!

Is the Lord asking you to be "*a shepherd who feeds His flock*" in the priesthood? Contact the Vocations Office, at 804-359-5661 and speak with Fr. Michael Boehling or Fr. Brian Capuano or email vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

Advent Penance Service

Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ Child this Christmas! Join us this **Thursday, December 13, at 7 p.m.** for our Advent Penance Service. Several priests will be here for individual Confessions.

Other opportunities for Confessions here before Christmas are: Sat., Dec. 15, 330-430p; Tues., Dec. 18, 5-6p; and Sat. Dec. 22, 330-430p. (or by appointment).



If you'd like to make a donation toward our poinsettias in memory of, or in honor of a loved one, please notify the office by 4p on Thursday, Dec. 20. These will be listed in the bulletin for the Feast of the Holy Family (Dec. 29/30).

Bulletin deadline for Dec. 30 is NLT 4p on Dec. 20.

Bulletin deadline for Jan. 6 is NLT 4p on Dec. 27.

Christmas Holy Day Mass Schedule:

Dec. 24 at 4p, 6:30p (9p in Spanish) & 12Midnight
(music begins 30 minutes prior; nursery at 4p & 630p)
Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.
(incense at all except the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve)