



With just three days to go until Christmas, the kind of preparation we may be focused on may have little to do with Jesus' birth.

Let us take this opportunity to focus on the true gift of Christmas. A virgin will bear a son, one in the line of David, who will be called **Emmanuel...** "*God is with us*".

Along with preparing gifts and Christmas dinner, let us also prepare a place in our hearts for God to be with us.



**Scripture for Christmas Holy Day Masses**

*We will use the "Mass During the Night" readings  
at ALL of our Christmas Masses*

**Isaiah 9:1-6 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14**

**Scripture for next Sunday**

*Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

**Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

*Revere your father, comfort your mother.*

**Colossians 3:12-17**

*Clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy.*

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

*Out of Egypt I called my son.*

Out of love for us, God sent the Son to be born into the world. Next Sunday, in the middle of the Christmas season, as we celebrate the love of God for humanity, we are reminded of the love that binds a family together. Above all things, Paul counsels the Colossians, we are called to put on love. Let us listen to the Holy Scripture for the ways in which we can show our love for our parents, our spouse, and our children.



**CHRISTMAS 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 at all except the 4 p.m. & 10 a.m. Masses)*



Happy fourth Sunday of Advent. Also, for those who will not be with us in the coming week let me wish you all a Merry Christmas. In just a few days, we will be gathering again as a community to celebrate the Word of God that became flesh and dwelt among us. Throughout the history of humanity, God has always shown a desire to be physically present to his people. He has done many things to make us aware that he is with us always. However, the greatest thing our God has done for us, was to become one of us and enter into our lives for the sake of our salvation. This is something that simply cannot be understated, or discussed too much.

There are so many religions that describe a divine presence that is far removed from our own experience. Something we can know about, or believe that this presence exists, but that is as far as it goes. Our faith offers so much more, because we not only know that our God is real, we know that he is present to us. He wants to be a part of our lives in everything we do. He is not only real, he is present to us in our lives, and is constantly inviting us into a deeper relationship with him.

Over the coming days, most of us will be spending a great deal of time with our families. We will be opening presents, gathering for dinner, and just enjoying some relaxing times with family and friends. I invite everyone to spend a little time with the family reflecting on what this holiday means to us as Catholics. We have a God who loves us, and is constantly seeking and pursuing us. He has never been content to simply wait for us to find him. He became one of us and stepped into all of the ugliness of our world so we could all know our God.

We will have many reasons to feel blessed as we gather to celebrate the holidays. Let us not forget the greatest blessing in our lives.



**Please take Note!!**

**NO Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education (SMARE)** today or next Sunday. SMARE will resume on Sunday, January 5.

**NO Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** today or next Sunday. RCIA will resume on Sunday, January 5.

**Youth News**

**Senior High Youth Ministry (Grades 9-12)**

- **Dec. 22—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
  - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- **Dec. 29—NO SHYM** (*Merry Christmas!*)
- **Jan. 5—NO SHYM** (*Happy New Year!*)  
\*\*\*There **WILL BE CONFIRMATION CLASS**\*\*\*  
on Sunday, January 5th  
from 6-8pm at the Brady Youth Center
- **Jan. 12—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
  - Christmas Party!

**Junior High Youth Ministry (Grades 7 & 8)**

- **Dec. 22—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
  - Christmas Cookie Exchange
- **Dec. 29—NO JHYM** (*Merry Christmas!*)
- **Jan. 5—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
- **Jan. 12—Youth Group** (BYC 6:00pm-8:00pm)
  - Christmas Party!

**One Warm Coat Drive**

Our Youth Ministry (SHYM & JHYM) is holding a “**One Warm Coat Drive**” to collect clean, gently used warm coats of all types and sizes. The coats need to be brought in by TODAY (Dec. 22). Drop your coats off in the container in the hall by the Great Room. These coats will be distributed in our local community. Thank you for your help!

The **Monday Adult Religious Education** group is on a break and will resume on Monday, January 6.

The **Parish Office** will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Break this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (Dec. 24/25/26). The office will also be closed next Wednesday, January 1 for New Year’s Day.

**NO “Weekday” Masses this Week.** Holy Day Masses on Christmas Eve (Tuesday, Dec. 24) at 4p, 6:30p, 9p/Spanish and 12Midnight and Christmas Day (Wed., Dec. 25) at 10a.

**NO Adoration** this week or next week. Our next Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be our “First” Tuesday Adoration on Tuesday, January 7 from 9a to 9p.

**NO Confessions** this Tuesday or Thursday. Confessions will be heard next Saturday, December 28, 3:30-4:30pm.



**Thank You**

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

For the children and their awesome performance in the **Christmas Play** last Sunday.

For the audience (congregation members) who stayed and enjoyed the play and refreshments with the cast.

For the volunteers who helped put it all together; you are truly appreciated —

The dads: Terry Craiger, Bryan Griffey, Brian Mullins, Derek Shipley

The moms: Maulen Craiger, Lora Griffey, Stephanie Shipley, Rebecca Stout

The teens that helped with refreshments: Andrew Cochrane, Cole Gayewski

**A Big Thank You** to everyone who brought in their leftover candy after Halloween. St. Anne’s 8th graders packaged up 311 Treat Bags which were then taken to the Salvation Army and the Haven of Rest.

Dear Parishioners:

Thank you for the many prayers of sympathy for the passing of my Aunt Rose. She was 100 years old. Also thank you for your thoughts and prayers for the medical procedure I recently received.

*Jack Sardina*

**BULLETIN DEADLINES...**

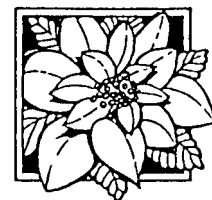
⇒ As previously announced, the bulletin for next weekend (Dec. 28/29) has already gone to the printer, early deadline due to printer/delivery schedules.

⇒ Items for the January 4/5 bulletin need to be received in the parish office NLT 2 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 27.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS and HONARIUMS**

The flower memorial/honarium requests received by this past Thursday will be listed in next Sunday’s bulletin on Holy Family weekend (Dec. 28/29).

If you would still like to make a donation toward our Christmas Flowers in memory of or in honor of a loved one but missed that deadline, please notify the office by voicemail (276-669-8200 ext. 0) or email at [stannes@stannes-bristol.org](mailto:stannes@stannes-bristol.org) by **2 p.m. this Friday, Dec. 27** and they will be listed in the Epiphany bulletin, January 4/5.



**Poinsettias**



## Mass Intentions

**Saturday, December 21** (*Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. †Tonette Davidson

**Sunday, December 22** (*4th Sunday of Advent*)

8:30 a.m. †Audrey Wilson

11:30 a.m. †Gloria Jean Gately and †Robert Tate

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE, Tues., Dec. 24** (*Holy Day Vigil*)

4:00 p.m. †Neal Jewell

6:30 p.m. Deceased members of the

†Weberling and †Turner families

9:00 p.m. †Francisco Morales (*Spanish Mass*)

12 Midnight †John "Pete" & †Betty Hagerman

**CHRISTMAS DAY, Wed., Dec. 25** (*Holy Day*)

10:00 a.m. St. Anne's Parishioners

(no weekday Masses: Dec. 26/27)

**Saturday, December 28** (*Vigil: Holy Family*)

5:30 p.m. † Hedwig Meussen

**Sunday, December 29** (*Holy Family*)

8:30 a.m. † Herbert Dittmar

11:30 a.m. † Lynn Roosa

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

### SOUP KITCHEN

#### Volunteers needed!!

January 2 thru 15

St. Anne's parishioners will staff the community Soup Kitchen January 2 thru 15. The Soup Kitchen requires two adult volunteers per day, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Soup Kitchen facility located on the United Coal Company campus (*just a few blocks from St. Anne's*).

The work lasts less than 90 minutes. If you are willing to serve our community, please contact Kristie Fayler at [Faylermom@gmail.com](mailto:Faylermom@gmail.com). THANKS!

### Bristol Faith in Action VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

BFIA is in need of volunteers to do Reception, Appointment Setting, Date Entry, and Interviewing. They are open Tuesday thru Friday, 10a to 2p. Please stop by for an application at the BFIA office located at 1534 Euclid Ave., Bristol, VA or call 276-466-8292. As always, your non-perishable food donations are appreciated for their food pantry. (*Your non-perishable food items can be brought here to St. Anne's to the blue box by the wheelchair lift and we'll take them to BFIA.*)

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

### All Are Welcome!!

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, located in the heart of downtown Bristol at 700 Cumberland Street, invites the community and area visitors to enjoy its annual **Community Christmas Dinner**. Since 1981, Emmanuel Episcopal Church has provided a traditional Christmas dinner on Christmas Day. This year, the dinner will be **Wednesday, December 25** from **4 p.m. until 6 p.m.** The meal includes traditional holiday dinner trimmings.

Reservations are not necessary and there is no fee for the dinner. Just bring your family and friends and some holiday spirit to share. Everyone is welcome to partake in the joy of Christmas as we share a wonderful meal and a fun-filled evening of fellowship, entertainment, and caroling.

For more information, contact Emmanuel Episcopal Church at 276-669-9488 or [emmanuelbristol@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelbristol@gmail.com).



### E-Giving Report (December 1-15)

Regular/Operating	\$4,715.00
School 2nd Collection	\$ 410.00
F4 Maintenance Reserve	\$ 60.00
<i>(F4 is the former "Bldg.Fund")</i>	
BFIA	\$ 150.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	\$ 50.00
Christmas Holy Day	\$ 55.00
Immaculate Conception Holy Day	\$ 165.00
Military Archdiocese	\$ 53.00
Mission Cooperative	\$ 50.00
Social Ministry/Outreach	\$ 100.00

### Collection Report (December 14/15)

Regular/Operating	\$10,789.65
2nd Collection/Social Ministry	\$ 3,736.00
Add'l 2nd Collection/School	\$ 118.00
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	\$ 100.00
Christmas Holy Day	\$ 500.00

**Collection: Holy Day**  
(*Immaculate Conception*)  
\$1288.00

### Second Collections:

—Dec. 24/25 for Commonwealth Catholic Charities

—Jan. 4/5 for St. Anne's School

—Jan. 18/19 for Respect Life

**2019 STATEMENTS:** Be sure that your end-of-year donations are received in the office by **5pm, Dec. 31, 2019** 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.)

"The child grew and became strong in spirit"  
Luke 1:80



St. Anne School students, staff, & parents  
wish you a



Merry Christmas  
and Blessed 2020!



We sincerely appreciate your support of our  
educational programs all year through!

Remember to... **PRAY for VOCATIONS!!**

**The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Holy Day Masses for the Solemnity of Mary are: **Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 5:30 p.m.;** **Wed., January 1 at 10 a.m.** (*Incense used at 10a*)

**Please note:** When the parish office is closed over the Christmas holiday, if you have an emergency requiring a priest for a sacramental anointing, an emergency number will be on our main parish voicemail at 276-669-8200 x0.

# Christmas Blessings

**We wish you laughter, joy, and a happy heart,  
Warmth of love, good friends today and always.**

**We wish you His peace in your life;**

**We wish you His blessings.**

**And we wish you a very Merry Christmas!**

*Fr. Chris & the parish staff*