

*As we enter the homestretch of this season of preparation, we hear of Mary's visit to her cousin Elizabeth. Their visit is filled with joy, expressed wonderfully by Elizabeth's baby (John the Baptist) leaping in her womb at the sound of Mary's voice. May this final weekend before Christmas fill us with joy as we prepare to welcome Christ into our hearts once again.*



**Readings for this Week (Dec. 24-30)**

**Monday/Tuesday—Readings for Christmas Eve**

We will use the following at all our Holy Day Masses:

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

Wednesday:	Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59;	Matthew 10:17-22
Thursday:	1 John 1:1-4;	John 20:1a, 2-8
Friday:	1 John 1:5—2:2;	Matthew 2:13-18
Saturday:	1 John 2:3-11;	Luke 2:22-35

**“Nativity of the Lord” - A Holy Day of Obligation**

**Holy Day Masses:**

**Christmas Eve** (Mon., Dec. 24)

**4 p.m., 6:30 p.m., 9p/Spanish, 12Midnight**

**Christmas Day** (Tues., Dec. 25)

**10 a.m.**

**NOTE:** NO Masses this Wed., Thurs., Friday  
NO Confessions this Tuesday or Thursday

**Emergency Calls:** If you have an emergency and need a priest for a sacramental anointing this week, call the parish office and an emergency number will be listed on the voicemail: **276-669-8200 ext. 0**

**Readings for next Sunday**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 (or) 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Colossians 3:12-21 (or) 3:12-17 (or) 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Luke 2:41-52

*In the Gospel next Sunday, St. Luke narrates the episode of the adolescent Jesus staying behind in the temple, causing his parents terrible anxiety when they realize he's missing. Parents can certainly appreciate their distress, and then their relief. Next Sunday as we celebrate the Holy Family, let us think of the families we have been a part of — both as children and as adults.*

 **Pastor's Notes**

Merry Christmas. Yes, I know it is the fourth Sunday of Advent. I may be a little early, but we are only days away so I wanted my message this weekend to be about Christmas. 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.

One final note for the holidays. Last week, I mentioned in my homily that although we always have a reason to rejoice, we don't always feel the joy. Even as we feel the joy this season, there are still many who are struggling to find the same. I would like to challenge everyone reading this to find a way over the coming week to show that joy to someone who is struggling to find it. We have indeed been given a great blessing by our God's entrance into our world. Once we realize how much our God has done for us, how can we keep that to ourselves and not share it?

**LITURGICAL Ministers:**

Please pick up your schedules today in the commons!!  
If not picked up we will put in the mail Sunday afternoon.

**DECORATING for Christmas—TODAY (Sunday)**

Adults & Teens who'd like to lend a hand to help us decorate the church are welcome to join us!



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

- **Sun., Dec. 23 —NO SHYM**
  - Merry Christmas!
- **Sun., Dec. 30 —NO SHYM**
  - Happy New Year!
- **Sun., Jan. 6—Youth Group (BYC 6pm-8pm)**
  - Epiphany Party
- **Sun., Jan. 13—Youth Group (BYC 6pm-8pm)**
  - More Than Meets the Eye

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY....**

Since we recently had a taste of the snowy/icy winter weather, just a reminder that if the parish office is notified by the pastor or a staff member of a cancellation on the weekend due to inclement weather, then we will post it on:

- our [parish website main page—www.stannes-bristol.org](http://www.stannes-bristol.org)
- on the St. Anne Catholic Church Facebook page
- And we will leave a message on the parish office main voicemail — 276-669-8200 ext. 0

*(Note: the “Mass Schedule” on our voicemail cannot be changed unless we are at the office so don’t check \*22; any cancellations will be at extension “0”)*

When it comes to whether or not you should try to come for Mass when the roads are bad, we encourage you to use your best judgment—some people live very close to the church and others have quite a distance to travel. Some areas (i.e. Bluff City, Sullivan County) may not have much snow and others (Washington Co., VA) may have several inches. Please do not take an unnecessary risk if the roads are bad where you live.

**POINSETTIA memorials/honorariums** will be listed in our parish bulletin next weekend—the Feast of the Holy Family on December 29/30.

**NO RCIA** this week or next week.

RCIA resumes on **January 9!**

**NO Adult Faith Formation** groups meet this week.

*Merry Christmas!*

**NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ...**

this Tuesday (Dec. 25 Christmas Day) or next Tuesday (Jan. 1 Solemnity of Mary). Tuesday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will resume on **January 8**.

**Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs**

**CD of the week: “God Become Man” - Bishop Robert Barron gives us Meditations for the Christmas Season:**

- Christ and World Religions
- Religion, Science, and the Journey of the Magi
- Faith, The Friend of Reason
- Herod and the Magi
- Keeping Your Family Holy

Find this CD and many more titles at the CD display in the commons. A \$3 donation per CD is appreciated and allows us to re-stock with new CDs. Thank you!

**Finance Council AND Parish Pastoral Council** members are reminded of their meetings on **Thursday, January 3**, in the school library:

Finance Council at 7 a.m.

Pastoral Council at 7 p.m.

**BAPTISM** A graphic of a baptism font with water being poured into it.

**Baptism Preparation Class—January 12**

Our next Baptismal Preparation Class is scheduled for **Saturday, January 12, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Great Room**. If you have a child under the age of 7 who needs baptism or you are expecting the birth of your child soon, please plan to attend. The nursery will be provided for siblings, if needed. **To register**, please call Sydney Farnum at 76-669-8200 ext. 32 or email [sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org](mailto:sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org) **no later than Wednesday, January 9**.

**CHILDREN leaving Mass unattended:**

Parents, please remember that the exterior doors are unlocked during Mass... we encourage you to always accompany your young children to the restroom and drinking fountain. Thank you.



Mass Intentions  
for the Week



PARISH  
SUPPORT

**Saturday, December 22** (*Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. †Tonette Davidson

**Sunday, December 23** (*4th Sunday of Advent*)

8:30 a.m. †Audrey Wilson

11:30 a.m. Parishioners

2:00 p.m. Special Intention

**Monday, December 24** (*Holy Day Vigil—Christmas Eve*)

4:00 p.m. †Neal Jewell

6:30 p.m. †Weberling & †Turner deceased family

9:30 p.m./*Spanish Mass* (no intention yet scheduled)

12 Midnight †Catherine Wooley

**Tuesday, December 25** (*Holy Day—Christmas Day*)

10:00 a.m. †Elinor Heberling & †Theresa Giordano

(No Masses Wed., Thurs., Friday Dec. 26/27/28)

**Saturday, December 29** (*Vigil: Feast of the Holy Family*)

5:30 p.m. Special Intention for Agnes Hurt

**Sunday, December 30** (*Feast of the Holy Family*)

8:30 a.m. †Fred Eaton

11:30 a.m. †Bob Landsberg

2:00 p.m. Parishioners

**Monthly Papal Intention**

To better know “the concrete problems that trouble the Universal Church, especially those of the missions”, the Holy Father asks that his monthly intentions be “the object of knowledgeable and responsible prayer on the part of the people of God”.

**Pope’s Universal Intention for January 2019**

Young People and the Example of Mary

That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church -Christmas Dinner**

Emmanuel Episcopal, 700 Cumberland Street (downtown), invites the community to enjoy its annual Christmas Dinner this **Tues., Dec. 25, 4pm-6pm**. Dinner includes traditional holiday dinner trimmings. Reservations are not necessary and there is no fee for the dinner. All are welcome!

**SOUP KITCHEN**

The Soup Kitchen provides approximately 1,000 meals daily to people in the Bristol area. St. Anne parishioners volunteer January 2-15, but we need more help. The Soup Kitchen requires two adult volunteers per day beginning at 9:15 a.m. at the Soup Kitchen facility on the United Coal Company campus. Work lasts less than 90 minutes. If you are willing to serve our community, please contact Kristie Faylor, [faylertmom@charter.net](mailto:faylertmom@charter.net) or 276-591-6921.

**COLLECTION REPORT (Dec. 7 and Dec. 8/9)**

Holy Day (Immaculate Conception) \$1,883

Regular Operating Collection (Dec. 8/9)\* \$4,417

\*due to snow/ice Sunday Masses only had a few in attendance

Debt Red. \$62 School \$235 Giving Tree \$95

Special “as needed” \$600

**COLLECTION REPORT (Dec. 15/16)**

Regular/Operating \$14,047

2nd Collection/Social Ministry \$ 2,891

Holy Day/Immaculate Conception \$ 103

2nd Collection/School \$ 133

Debt Reduction \$ 10

**E-Giving (December 1-16)**

Regular/Operating \$4,720

2nd Collections: St. Anne’s School \$ 410

Social Ministry \$ 55

Catholic Charities \$ 55

Archdioc/Military Svc \$ 5

Debt Reduction \$ 220

Holy Days: Immaculate Conception \$ 70

Christmas \$ 35

Solemnity of Mary \$ 5

**2nd Collections**

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

- Christmas Masses (Dec. 24/25) \*Commonwealth Catholic Charities — With your support Commonwealth Catholic Charities serves those in need throughout the Diocese of Richmond. The first collection on Christmas will be for the Christmas Holy Day offering (supports our operating fund); followed by the second collection for Catholic Charities.
- January 5/6: 2nd collection for St. Anne’s School.

**REMINDER:** Donations you wish recorded on for 2018 need to be received in the office **by 5 p.m. Dec. 31**. Note: Donations placed in the collection basket at the Vigil Mass (5:30p on Dec. 31) will be considered a 2019 donation.

**Year-End Gift Using Your IRA:** Consider a charitable donation from your IRA to our parish! IRA owners 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).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** - “*The Odd Couple*” at the Cameo Theatre in downtown Bristol on January 18/19 and January 25/26/27. The cast includes St. Anne parishioners Martin Robinette, Meg Carty, and making his theatre debut—Father Chris Hess!

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Prayers Requested

We ask your prayers for *Victoria Alvarez de Morales*, the mother of Alvaro Morales, who died recently. Notes may be sent to Alvaro & Lupe at 145 Free Hill Ext., Gray, TN 37615.

### A Note of Thanks...

Thank you for your prayers for my sister. She had 25% of her lung removed and the operation was successful.

*Charlotte Duff*

**Friday Weekday Mass time change!!** Beginning Jan. 4, our Friday morning Mass will be **8:30 a.m.** (*instead of 7:30a*).

**NO Bingo:** Dec. 22, 24, 25, 29, 31, Jan. 1 (resumes Jan. 5)

**Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers!  
Enjoy the Christmas break!!**

**Parish Office will be closed:** Dec. 24, 25, 26 and Jan. 1.

**NO confessions:** Dec. 25 & 27, Jan. 1

**2019 Catholic Calendars**—Our 2019 Catholic Calendars will be available in the Commons at our Holy Day Masses on Dec. 31 & Jan. 1.

### Christmas **HOLY DAY** Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: **4p, 6:30p**, 9/Spanish, **12Midnite**

Christmas Day, Dec. 25: **10 a.m.**

Incense will be used at all except the 4 p.m.

The Nursery will be open for the 4p & 6:30p

Regular Weekend Mass Schedule for **Holy Family** weekend (Dec. 29/30)—Sat. 5:30p; Sunday 8:30a, 11:30a, and 2p/Spanish) Incense at all except the 8:30a

### Solemnity of Mary **HOLY DAY** Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve Monday, Dec. 31 at **5:30 p.m.**

New Year's Day Tuesday, Jan. 1 at **10 a.m.**

Incense will be used at the 10 a.m. Mass



*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!***