

“Prepare the way of the Lord!” John the Baptist makes his Advent appearance today, and challenges us to make ourselves ready for the Lord’s coming into the world and into our hearts. Repentance, he says, is the key, the way to make the mountains low and the crooked paths straight. As we gather for worship today, let our hearts be repentant, ready to turn around and live in the light of the Lord.



Readings for this week (Dec. 7-12)

Monday:	Isaiah 35:1-10;	Luke 5:17-26
Tuesday:	Genesis 3:9-15, 20;	Eph. 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday:	Isaiah 40:25-31;	Matthew 11:28-30
Thursday:	Isaiah 41:13-20;	Matthew 11:11-15
Friday:	Isaiah 48:17-19;	Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday:	Zechariah 2:14-17;	Luke 1:26-38

Readings for next Sunday (3rd/Advent—Gaudete)

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.

Next Sunday John the Baptist reminds his followers that the nearness of the Lord should be marked by a sharing of food and clothing with the poor. This kind of behavior characterizes those who wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. This is true joy: helping those who are most in need. Let next Sunday's holy Word inspire us all to be a people filled with Christian joy!

**Holy Day of Obligation
*Feast of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary***

Tuesday, December 8

MASSSES: 7:30 A.M., 12:15 & 7 P.M.

This feast commemorates the conception of Our Lady (nine months before her birthday on September 8) and acknowledges the Catholic belief that Mary was preserved from Original Sin. Our Lady, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is also the patroness of the United States.

PRAYERS REQUESTED

We ask your prayers for **Barbara Worley**, the aunt of **Faith & Lexie Stumpe**. Notes of sympathy may be sent to them at 5 Euclid Ave., #207 Lee Garden, Bristol, VA 24201.

Your prayers are asked for **Ethel Barclay**, the aunt of **Marie McConnell**. Notes may be sent to Marie at 18429 Ironwood Loop, Abingdon, VA 24210.

**PARACLETE CATHOLIC BOOKSTORE
Here THIS WEEKEND in the Great Room**

Be sure to stop in the Great Room after Mass this weekend and shop for Catholic Religious items, Advent materials, Christmas gifts and more! We appreciate the folks from Knoxville coming to Bristol so please patronize them! Thanks!!

1st Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following children who received their first Sacrament of Reconciliation on November 21st.

Logan Blanco	Anna Marie Castaneda-Reneau
Olivia Cochrane	Cooper Fayler
Maria Kaul	Abran Leal
Carlos Mendoza	Alma Leal
Marlene Mendoza	Camille McKenzie
	Jennifer Tester

Korby Johnson and **Chloe Wise** also prepared for First Reconciliation and will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation after being received in the Church. May each of you experience a lifetime of being forgiven and healed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please stop by the table in the commons this weekend and next weekend to pick up your certificates and quilt pieces. Thank you.

CRAFT SALE

Following Masses on Dec. 12/13

The Council of Catholic Women will sponsor a Craft Sale next weekend in the hallway down by the Great Room. These crafts are the ones left over from the Harvest Bazaar Craft Fair in October. We have many nice crafts available including some Christmas Crafts. Please stop by after Mass to pick up a few crafts for Christmas presents. All proceeds go to St. Anne's School.

EVENING PRAYER

Sundays at 6 p.m. — In the Chapel

Sunday School of Religion Parents are reminded that we are in the final days of preparation for our first Christmas Play. It is extremely important that your children be present for the rehearsals. We will rehearse during Sunday School on Dec. 6 & 13 and have a final dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 19 from 12Noon to 2 p.m. If your child has a speaking part, please help them to practice their part.

Stable needed! We have the Holy Family, shepherds, stable animals, angels, prophets, Caesar Augustus, a Roman Soldier, magi, townspeople and a Bethlehem star. We have gold, frankincense and myrrh. We have a manger. But we have no stable. We need a **stable!!** If you have one that we could borrow on Dec. 19 & 20, please call Sydney at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 or email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org. It needs to be lightweight enough to be easily lifted onto and off the predella. Thank You!

Sunday Morning Adult Religious Education Class Today, Dec. 6th — “**Advent**” presented by Stacy Robinette in the school library. Next Sunday, **Dec. 13**, our topic will be “**Revelation**” presented by Susan Mole at 9:45 a.m. in the Great Room.

Wednesday Night Scripture Study meets this Wednesday, **Dec. 9, at 7 p.m. in the Monsignor Hickie Center.** Please join us as we study the scriptures that will be proclaimed at the next Sunday Mass. No prior preparation is needed. Bring your Bible. Seminarian Chris Hess will present this week.

LATIN MASS—Sundays of Advent 5 p.m. in the Chapel

This year on the Sundays of Advent we are celebrating a Latin Mass (Mass in the Extraordinary Form) in the Chapel at 5 p.m. Following the Mass we will pray the Litany of the Hours (Evening Prayer) at 6 p.m.

Please Note:

- This Wednesday, Dec. 9, our **weekday Mass** will be celebrated at 7:30 a.m. (instead of 12:15) due to the Region X Priests’ Meeting.
- **NO Confessions** this Thursday, Dec. 10. Fr. Tim will be at St. Dominic’s in Kingsport for their Advent Penance Service that evening.
- The **Spanish Mass** this Saturday, Dec. 12th will be at 10 a.m. (instead of 8:30 a.m.) and will be for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Mass Intentions

Monday, December 7

7:30 a.m. Spec. Int. for Glenda Stockwell

Tuesday, December 8 (*Holy Day of Obligation*)

7:30 a.m. Parishioners

12:15 p.m. Francis J. Finan, Jr.

7:00 p.m. Kyle Patrick Kennedy

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 a.m. Peggy C. Schmidt

Thursday, December 10

7:30 a.m. Ann P. Rogers

Friday, December 11

7:30 a.m. Ethel Barclay

Saturday, December 12

10:00 a.m. Parishioners (*Spanish Mass—OLG*)

5:30 p.m. Frances Carriera, Paul Carriera USMC,
and JoAnne Carriera

Sunday, December 13

8:30 a.m. Audrey Wilson

11:30 a.m. Cynthia Burch

5:00 p.m. William Mustock (*Latin Mass*)

Young Adult Leadership Team is reminded of our regularly scheduled meeting next **Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Conference Room.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club will meet on Dec. 17 at noon at the Rossetti home. Please call Gina Rossetti (423-878-7827) to reserve your spot and bring a covered dish for the potluck. If you wish to carpool, meet at the Msgr. Hickie Center at 11 a.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

The Justice & Peace Committee will sponsor a **Christmas Day Dinner** for all parishioners who might be celebrating Christmas Day alone this year. The dinner will be **in the Great Room on Christmas Day at 4 p.m.** If you cook, we ask you to bring a favorite dish to share. If you don’t cook, please join us for dinner anyway, there will be plenty of food. Please sign up at the religious ed. table in the commons this weekend and next weekend so we know how many to expect for dinner. Don’t stay home alone on Christmas Day—come and enjoy dinner with others in your parish who may be away from their families on Christmas Day. Thank You! If you have questions, please call Sydney Farnum at 276-669-8200 ext. 32 or email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org.



Many thanks to our most recent donors for the 60th Anniversary auction: *Nautilus, Wild Flour Bakery, Finney Studios, Oasis Salon, Healing Waters Day Spa, Whole Health Center, the Troutdale Dining Room, Maria Valente (Cida), Interstate Bowl, Chef Heather's Café, Kil'n Time, Dollywood-the Mason Mazzei family, Macado's, Machiavelli's, The Gent Family, the Cobb Family, Maureen Moffet-St. Anne School Library, Stateline Bar & Grill, Jaima Gemmell, Little Italy Pizza, Mane Street Day Spa, John C. Snyder, Jr.-audiologist, the Green Family.* PTO is working diligently on this upcoming celebration. We hope you have marked the date. Invitations will be out soon. We look forward to celebrating 60 years of excellence on January 23, 2010 at the Bristol Train Station.

Collection Report

Regular Collection, Nov. 21/22	\$17,408.01
Regular Collection, Nov. 28/29	\$12,563.65
Campaign for Human Development	\$ 2,701.55

A Note of Thanks.....

Dear Fr. Keeney & Parishioners:

During the week of Nov. 14/15, I had hoped to come before you on behalf of St. Peter Parish in downtown Richmond. However, that was not to be. The graciousness of your Pastor allowed me to remain in Richmond and handle my own health needs. Thank you for whatever assistance you provided (*through the Mission Cooperative collection*). Be assured that I, as well as the parish of *St. Peter's*, am most grateful to you. Please visit us during your next time in Richmond and be assured of our prayers in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Rev. Robert A. Brownell, Pastor

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Thursday, December 17 at 7 p.m.

*Prepare your heart for the coming
of the Christ Child at Christmas*

Several priests will be here for confessions.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

Advent & Christmas LITURGY Calendar: Please be sure to pick up the schedule listing all of our Liturgies during this Advent Season and the Christmas Season. This calendar is also available on our parish website www.stannes-bristol.org.

Alternative Gifts—Benefit Bristol Faith In Action

Consider giving a gift this year that can make a difference right here in our community. Your donation to BFIA in honor of or in memory of someone can positively impact lives right here in our community! Your gift can help our neighbors with winter heat, shelter, acquiring food, accessing prescriptions, finding transportation and help with the struggles of their financial crisis. Stop by the BFIA Office at 703 Chester Street, Bristol, VA. The BFIA Office is open Tuesday thru Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bristol Tennessee High School Madrigal Dinner

A memorable Tri-Cities Christmas Tradition is the Tennessee High School Madrigal Dinner! This event is a time to share with families & friends. You will experience a time capsule from the age of Ladies & Lords, Kings & Castles, Dragons & Jesters. The food is exceptional, the comedy hilarious and the music is wonderful! The Madrigal Dinners are at Avoca Christian Church, 7 p.m., on Dec. 10, 11 & 12. Tickets are \$20 and can only be purchased in advance. Call 423-968-1242 for tickets & information.

Looking for a Job? Creating a Resume? The YWCA is offering FREE classes for Job Hunting & Resume Building. "Job Hunting" will be Sat., Dec. 12 or Friday, Dec. 18 from 9a-12n; "Resume Building" will be Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 12noon. Call the &YWCA at 423-968-9444 to register.

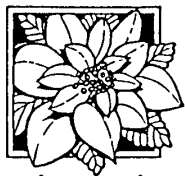
"Prepare the Way" Advent reflections

The Office of Vocations has launched a daily on-line Advent homily service called "Prepare the Way". These daily reflections (presented by Fr. Michael Renninger) are intended to provide an additional spiritual resource to adults, young adults and teens who are seeking new ways to grow in faith during Advent. To view the daily homily, go to www.behind-the-collar.com/tabid/1101/default.aspx.

Bulletin Deadlines: Normally our bulletin deadline is noon on Mondays. However, due to the publisher's holiday schedules, please note the following deadlines:

- For the 12/27 bulletin: due in by 5 p.m. Fri., Dec. 18
- For the 01/03 bulletin: due in by 1 p.m. Wed., Dec. 23

Packages to Troops: We've received word that many of our boxes have been received by the soldiers in Iraq & Afghanistan! When doing your Christmas Cards this year, if you'd like to send a greeting to a soldier, please contact Rosie in the parish office for addresses.



Poinsettias

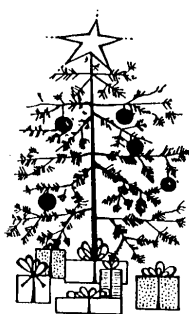
If you would like to make a donation toward our Christmas Flowers in memory of (or in honor of) someone, please notify the office by 5 p.m. on Dec. 17. These will be listed in the bulletin on Dec. 26/27.

ANGELUS & LITANY

12Noon—Fridays of Advent

Take 5 minutes from your lunch break and join us in the Chapel on the Fridays of Advent. We begin PROMPTLY at 12Noon in the Chapel and pray the Angelus and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin.

GIVING TREE: If you took any ornaments from our Giving Tree, please remember to bring the wrapped package (with the tag attached to the outside) back next weekend. We need all the gifts in no later than Sunday, Dec. 13 after the 11:30 Mass. THANKS!



The Giving Tree

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Our Lady of the Rosary #2624

We will be having our Christmas Party on Monday, December 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Each CDA member is asked to bring an appetizer or “finger food” of their choice. Please call Resa Munt at 423-742-5670 to let us know how many will be attending. Thank You.

Children/Teens in Grade 3-8 Christmas Eve Choir!

If you are in Grades 3-8 and love to sing — then plan to join our Special Choir for the 4 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve. You need to come to only three rehearsals—

Wednesdays, 3:15-4 p.m. on December 9, 16, & 23
Questions? Call Mr. Davis at 669-8200.



ADULT CHOIR (Adults & High School Teens)

This week’s rehearsals: Mon., Dec. 7, 7pm (Men)

Wed., Dec. 9, 7pm (Full)

Thurs., Dec. 10, 7pm (Sopranos)

(Choir will sing next weekend, Dec. 13 at 8:30 a.m. Mass)