

Rejoice! Today is traditionally called *Gaudete* or Rejoice Sunday, from the first words of the entrance antiphon, "*Rejoice in the Lord always*", taken from today's reading from Saint Paul to the Philippians. Why should we rejoice? Because the Lord is near! More than halfway through our Advent preparations now, let us be sensitive to the nearness of the Lord.



Readings for this week (Dec. 14-19)

MONDAY: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27
TUESDAY: Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32
WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25; Luke 7:18b-23
THURSDAY: Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17
FRIDAY: Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-25
SATURDAY: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25

Scripture for next Sunday (4th Sunday of Advent)

Micah 5:1-4a

From Bethlehem shall come the ruler of Israel.

Hebrews 10:5-10

Behold, I come to do your will.

Luke 1:39-45

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth.

As we hear God's holy word next Sunday, let us turn to the Lord and see our loving God's face in the small town of Bethlehem, in young Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, and in all those whose lives intersect with ours every day.



If you'd like to make a donation toward our Christmas flowers in memory of, or in honor of someone, please notify the office no later than 12N this Thursday, Dec. 17. These will be listed in the Holy Family bulletin on the weekend of December 26/27.

NOTE: due to Publishers' schedule, notices for the Dec. 27 bulletin are due to the office by 5p this Thurs., Dec. 17.

Prayer Shawl Ministry members are reminded of our gathering this **Wednesday, December 16, at 10 a.m.** in the St. Vincent de Paul Center. New members are welcome to join us!

A Note of Thanks...

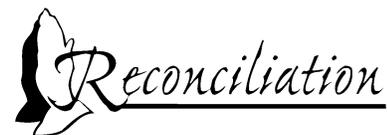
With God beside me and with your prayers, phone calls, and cards of encouragement, I am on the mend. I would like to thank everyone for their kindness over the past several months. May God bless you.

With love and gratitude,
Mary Karban

CHOIR—CHOIR—CHOIR !!!

- St. Anne's Choir Rehearsals this week are: Monday, Dec. 14 at 6:30p, Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30p, and Thursday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. (*The choir will sing next Sunday, Dec. 20 at the 11:30 Mass.*)
- Special Christmas Choir (Grades 3-8) - rehearsal this week on Wed., Dec. 16 at 315p. (*Final rehearsal before Christmas Eve will be Monday, Dec. 21.*)

Weekly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for the Holy Year of Mercy begins this **Tuesday, Dec. 15.** Adoration hours are from **9:15am-4:30pm** (even if there is not a morning mass). You are encouraged to attend adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your prayer life during this Holy year of Mercy. NOTE: We will continue to sign-up for the 24-hour adoration on the first Tuesday of each month, but you do not need to sign up for adoration on the other Tuesdays.



**Prepare your hearts for
the coming of the Christ Child!**

Join us for our Advent Reconciliation Service this **TUESDAY, DEC. 15 at 7 p.m.** Several priests will be here for individual confessions that evening.



**Give Blood.
Give Life.**

The Bloodmobile will be here at St. Anne's (at the Msgr. Hickie Center) this **Wed., Dec. 16, 2p to 6:45pm.** If you didn't get a chance to sign up, call or email the office, or just drop in. Please consider **Giving the Gift of Life** this holiday season!

FRIENDSHIP CLUB: St. Anne's Friendship Club will meet this **Thurs., Dec. 17, 11:30 a.m.** at **Stateline Bar & Grill** (downtown Bristol). Call Gina Rossetti at 423-878-7827 by this **Tues., Dec. 15** to reserve your spot for lunch.



Youth News

Senior High Youth Ministry (grades 9-12)

Upcoming Schedule:

- **Dec. 13—Youth Group**—ALL TEENS (Gr. 9-12) - BYC 6pm-8pm
- **Dec. 20—Youth Group “December Fun Night”** - Kobe Japanese Steak House & gift exchange—permission forms & details given at youth group.
- **Dec. 27—NO SHYM**—Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
- **Jan 3—Youth Group**—ALL TEENS (grades 9-12) - BYC—6pm-8pm

CHRISTMAS GIFT REMINDER

**GIFTS
Due Back In
THIS WEEKEND!!**

(by 4p Dec. 13)



This weekend is the FINAL WEEKEND you can return the gifts you chose to buy from the ornaments on our Christmas Giving Tree. If you have not yet dropped off your gifts in the commons, please do so **by 4 p.m. TODAY (Sunday, December 13)**. We will be sorting gifts and preparing for their pick-up and delivery on Monday morning. **Remember to return your gift in a gift bag, enclose a Christmas card from “St. Anne’s”, and attach the ornament to the outside of the gift bag. This is critical as it is the only way we can identify which gift goes to which person or agency.** Thank you again, St. Anne parishioners, for your generosity to those who otherwise might not have any gifts to open on Christmas morning.

Lighthouse Catholic Media CDs

CD of the week: “7 Secrets of Divine Mercy”

Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have made it clear that Divine Mercy is at the very center of the Christian faith. Enter into the Year of Mercy with best-selling author, Vinny Flynn, as he share his 7 Secrets of Divine Mercy, and Christ’s message of love for each of us, and for the whole world. Pick up this CD and many others at the Lighthouse CD display on the table in the commons. A \$3.00 donation per CD is greatly appreciated and enables us to restock with new titles. Thank You!

New Scripture Study to begin for the Holy Year of Mercy “Divine Mercy”

When we study the Bible—both the Old and New Testaments—we discover that God’s most fundamental attribute is mercy. Again and again, God demonstrates faithful love for the world and calls people to a joyful and abundant life. Join us as we open the door to the heart of Scripture—the heart of Divine mercy.

Sign-up now to join one of the groups beginning in January.

- **Tuesday evening 6:30-8:00pm** in the St. Vincent de Paul Center, beginning **January 5**
- **Wednesday afternoon 1:00-2:30pm** in the St. Vincent de Paul Center, beginning **January 6**

Please sign up at the table in the commons or by emailing sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org. Cost of study materials is \$12.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

- **Catechumenate Class** meets this **Wed., Dec. 16**, at 6:30p in the Greatroom. **Topic: “He Will Come Again in Glory”.**
- **Inquiry Class** meets also on Wednesday evenings in the office conference room. Please stop by the greatroom for opening prayer before going to the conference room.
- **Breaking Open the Word** for catechumens and candidates meets during the Liturgy of the Eucharist at the Saturday 5:30 Mass in the office conference room.
- If you know someone who is interested learning more about the Catholic Church or in need of conversion, please bring them on Wednesday evenings. If you are interested, but unable to attend on Wednesday evenings, please contact Sydney at sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org for other possible times.

Please pray for our catechumens and candidates.

Holy Year Door Blessing -St. Mary’s/Johnson City
For the Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy — On Sunday, December 13, (TODAY) at 5 p.m., St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Johnson City, TN invites you to a blessing of the Holy Year Door to their perpetual adoration chapel, followed by a Holy Hour in the church. A light reception will conclude the evening. Pope Francis asks us to go out on pilgrimage. St. Mary’s invites other parishes to host similar gatherings during the Year of Mercy so that we can pray together and do spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

How can we show others the mercy of God?

We say that God is compassionate, but we ignore the poor.

We say that God loves us and has mercy on us,

but we hold grudges against our friends.

Our actions need to authentically reflect God’s mercy.

MASS INTENTIONS for this Week

Saturday, December 12 (*Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent*)

5:30 p.m. †Audrey Wilson

Sunday, December 13 (*3rd Sunday of Advent-GAUDETE*)

8:30 a.m. †Bridget Segerblom

11:30 a.m. †Thad Slack

2:00 p.m. Parishioners

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 a.m. †Emilia Cruz

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. †Diane Blackburn

Thursday, December 17

6:00 p.m. †Al Cannella

Friday, December 18

7:30 a.m. Special Intention

Saturday, December 19

5:30 p.m. †Regina C. Finan

Sunday, December 20

8:30 a.m. †Maureen Ianucci

11:30 a.m. Parishioners

2:00 p.m. †Beatriz Jimenez Castillo



WELCOME

Welcome to St. Anne's Parish!

We welcome the following newly registered parishioners:

—*Dane & Jennifer Brewer (Lauri & Brittney)*

4487 Reedy Creek Rd., Bristol, VA 24202
276-644-1796

—*Karen Bush*

15090 Johnson Hill Dr., Apt. #3,
Abingdon, VA 419-341-5559

—*Ricardo & Ana Aleman Cortez (Ricardo & Erick)*

527 Redstone Dr., Unit 15, Bristol, TN 3620

—*Rogelio Navarrete Decuir & Beatriz Hernandez-Garcia*

(Lizbeth, Alexandra, Roger, Andy)

20195 Bethel Rd., Abingdon, VA 24211
276-739-0062

—*Stephan Lauhoff*

517 Sand Bar Rd., Bristol, TN 37620
423-217-0644

—*Roberto & Luz Maria Mora (Paulette & William)*

1818 Anderson St., Bristol, TN 37620
423-302-9551

CHRISTMAS DINNER—December 25

Emmanuel Episcopal Church (700 Cumberland Street in downtown Bristol) will open its doors to the community again this year for their 34th annual **Christmas Dinner** on Friday, Dec. 25 from 4-7 p.m. Reservations are not needed, just bring the family and friends and holiday spirit to share. Come enjoy a wonderful meal which includes all the holiday dinner trimmings, and a fun-filled evening of fellowship, entertainment and caroling.

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!!!

This Week in Adult Faith Formation:

- **Sun., Dec. 13—Sunday Morning Adult Rel. Ed.:** *"The Infancy Narratives: Luke 1"*. 9:45-11am in the **Greatroom**. Next Sunday, **December 20**, we will study **Luke 2**. Bring your Bibles.
- **Monday, Dec. 14—"The Lives of Great Christians"** 1:00p to 2:30p, St. Vincent DePaul Center. This week we will study **From Slavery to Martin Luther King**. Join us any Monday.
- **Tuesday, Dec. 15—Tuesday Morning Book Club 10am-11am in the St. Vincent de Paul Center. Saint Joseph: the Father of Jesus in a Fatherless Society by Leonardo Boff.**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 16:**
—**Little Rock Scripture Study** at the St. Vincent de Paul Center, 1:00-2:30p. **"Second Corinthians"**
—**RCIA at 6:30: "He Will Come Again in Glory"**
- **Thursday, Dec. 17—Scripture Study** (to prepare us for the Sunday readings) at the St Vincent de Paul Center, **7:00-8:00p (after Mass)**. Bring your Bible! (**Please note: If there is no Mass at 6 p.m., the time for scripture study changes to **6:00-7:00 p.m.** {unless we have a scheduled Evening Prayer at 6pm}**)
- For more information about any of the above programs, email sydneyfarnum@stannes-bristol.org or call 276-669-8200 ext. 32.

COLLECTION REPORT (Dec. 5/6)

Regular/Operating	\$12,417.75
2nd collection/School	\$ 2,892.00
BFIA \$50; CCHD \$10	
Holy Days: Immac.Conc. \$165; Christmas \$300	

2nd Collections: This week (Dec. 13) our 2nd collection is for St. Anne's Social Ministry (outreach) funds. Thank you for your generosity which allows us to help those in need.

Executive Director Position: Bristol Faith in Action

BFIA is a non-profit ecumenical organization that assists neighbors in need. Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Exec. Dir. has overall strategic/operational responsibility for BFIA and execution of its mission. Oversees staff, programs, expansion, fundraising, grant writing, community education/relations and duties as described in job description (*to be provided*). The Exec. Dir. is an exempt position based upon a 30-hr. work week. BA/BS Degree or equivalent non-profit experience and background check required. Salary negotiable based on experience (range: low-mid 5 figures). Send resume w/references to: BFIA Search, c/o CCC Bristol, 424 Melrose St., Bristol, TN 37620 or email to office@cccbristol.com. Deadline: 12/31/15.

LOOKING AHEAD to CHRISTMAS!!

Christmas Eve (Thursday, Dec. 24)

Masses: 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 12Midnight (all in English)
(music begins 30 minutes prior)
5 p.m.—Children's Choir, 8 p.m.—Ensemble
12Midnight—St. Anne's Choir

Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25)

Masses: 10 a.m. (English)
1 p.m. in Spanish

*The Nursery will be available at the 5 p.m. Mass .
Incense will be used at all liturgies except the 5 p.m.*

Liturgy Notes...

This Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, is known as **Gaudete** Sunday or **Rejoice** Sunday. It's a reminder that our preparation, though it includes repentance and efforts to bear fruit, is a joyful endeavor. Our Lord is coming! On the first Sunday of Advent, we were encouraged to live so that our hearts are not weighed down with the worries of this world. Today's first reading from Zephaniah is a reminder to celebrate. God brings goodness and salvation! By the pink candle we light this week on our Advent wreath, we can see that the time is near. The light is returning to the world. What happiness we can enjoy as we make straight the paths! We can be full of joy knowing that when the Messiah comes, we will celebrate with him.

Advent Prayer

Thank you, God, for all of your blessings,
especially for the people in my life.
Please help me to stay on the Advent path,
and keep my heart focused on Christ
in all that I say and do as I prepare
for his holy birth at Christmas. Amen.

SAVE the DATES: Upcoming bus trips for Saint Anne parishioners. More details will be given soon.

- **March for Life in Washington DC—Jan. 21/22, 2016**
- **Seminarian Mark's transitional diaconate ordination in Richmond (this trip will also provide the pilgrimage to the Cathedral for the Holy Year of Mercy) - April 15/16, 2016**

Watch the upcoming bulletins for more information on both trips as the details are confirmed.

