

**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 16, 2018**

Today's Readings  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Zep 3: 14-18  
Phil 4: 4-7  
Lk 3: 10-18

Readings for 12/23/18  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Mi 5: 1-4  
Heb 10: 5-10  
Lk 1: 39-45

**MASS INTENTIONS: DEC. 17 TO DEC.23 , 2018**

|           |                                     |  |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Monday    | 9:00 a.m.                           | Albert Doty                                    |
| Tuesday   | 9:00 a.m.                           | Kathy Massey                                   |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m.                           | Communion Service                              |
| Thursday  | 9:00 a.m.                           | Communion Service                              |
| Friday    | 9:00 a.m.                           | Jim Bohdel                                     |
| Saturday  | 4:00 p.m.                           | Camille Kiedrowski                             |
| Sunday    | 8:00 a.m.<br>9:30 a.m.<br>11:15a.m. | James Federline<br>Kathy Massey<br>Charles Era |

(S) Special Intentions (B) Birthday (A) Anniversary (H) Health

**SCHEDULE FOR WEEKEND OF 12/23/18**

| Ministry  | Sat 4 pm<br>DEC.22 | Sun 8 am<br>DEC. 23 | Sun 9:30<br>DEC. 23 | Sun 11:15<br>DEC. 23 |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Priest    | MS                 | MS                  | HK                  | HK                   |
| Lectors   | R Pitz             | S McCain            | J Edwards           | R Oursler            |
| EM        | S Pardo            | T Dieter            | J Bowman            | P Era                |
|           | M Peach            | S Dieter            | M Childress         | C Hoopert            |
|           | D Phillips         | F Holtz             | L Hall              | B Hoopert            |
|           | M Washburn         | B Weber             | M Scarff            | M Rudell             |
| Server    | H Arnett           | A Engel             | J Devereux          | E Cassidy            |
|           | M Rinaudo          | I Warne             | J Devereux          | W Cassidy            |
|           | T Rinaudo          | O Ayd               | K Gesla             | S Hoopert            |
| Sacristan | G Arnett           | A Engel             | C Lawrence          | J McCarty            |

**FROM FR. KUNKEL**

A common occurrence around Christmas Time is the appearance of children's letters to Santa Claus in the local paper. One such article contained the following examples. A boy named Woody writes, "Dear Santa, I have seven things and my brother Robbie has eight things. Please bring me one more thing." A boy named Grant put his order this way, "Dear Santa Claus, Tommy wants a bike and Sandy wants a doll and I'll take everything I can get. And I mean everything!"

Such letters would be funny if they weren't so sad. So many people have come to see Christmas as simply a consumer orgy, a time to get everything I can get. "What do you want for Christmas?" is one of the most commonly heard questions at this time of the year, followed in a couple of weeks by "What did you get for Christmas?" What would it have been like, I wonder, in the Massachusetts Colony in 1660, where the following notice was posted:

PUBLICK NOTICE

THE OBSERVATION OF CHRISTMAS HAVING BEEN DEEMED A SACRILEGE, THE EXCHANGING OF GIFTS AND GREETINGS, DRESSING IN FINE CLOTHING, FEASTING AND SIMILAR PRACTICES ARE HEREBY FORBIDDEN WITH THE OFFENDER LIABLE TO A FINE OF FIVE SHILLINGS.

Maybe that's a bit extreme, but let's think about it a minute. Is our contemporary observation of Christmas possibly a "sacrilege?" Do we desecrate what was intended to be a day of holiness and Christian love by turning it into a time of merchandising madness? How much of the real meaning of Christmas survives in our own personal experience of the feast?

What would happen if we lived in Massachusetts in 1660 and had to celebrate Christmas without exchanging gifts and cards and putting on the grand show that is so common today? Could we still enjoy the second greatest feast of the year? That's the question that our readings put before us this weekend. Zephaniah says, "Shout for joy, be glad and exult with all your heart. . . " Why? Because "the Lord your God is in your midst." Paul repeats the theme, "Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, Rejoice!" "The Lord himself is near!" St. Luke, in the Gospel, notes that "the people were full of anticipation wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah." These readings speak strongly of joy and excitement with no hint of exchanging presents, fine clothing, feasting or any other trimmings we usually associate with Christmas. So, this Sunday reminds us what Christmas is really all about.

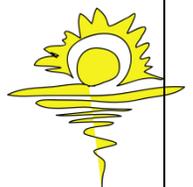
This Third Sunday of Advent is known traditionally as Gaudete Sunday or Rejoice Sunday, and it functions as a sort of "dress rehearsal" for Christmas. Today we light the third candle on our Advent wreath and ask ourselves if we are indeed ready to rejoice when the feast arrives. We might also ask if we are preparing to rejoice for the right reasons!

***Reconciliation/Penance Services  
Advent 2018 The Harford Region***

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| DEC. 17, 7:00 PM                                    | ST. JOAN OF ARC<br>ABERDEEN, MD      |
| DEC. 18, 7:00 P.M.– 8:00 P.M.                       | ST. FRANCIS de SALES<br>ABINGDON, MD |
| DEC. 19, 3:00 P.M.-5:00 P.M.<br>7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. | ST. STEPHEN'S<br>KINGSVILLE, MD      |
| DEC. 19, 7:00 P.M.                                  | ST. IGNATIUS<br>FOREST HILL, MD      |

**SUNRISE COMMUNION SERVICE**

St. Mary's offers a Communion Service every Wednesday at 6:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. For more information please contact Mike Dodson @ 717-382-4756





### ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of Paul L. Glackin by his family. Also in honor of the baptism of Angela Tanya Kupina from her family. If you would like to donate a floral arrangement to be

placed on the Altar please call Sue Dieter @ 410-937-4035.

### CELEBRATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS!!

#### Happy Birthday-80's and over

|              |    |        |
|--------------|----|--------|
| Lois Fritz   | 81 | Dec 23 |
| Maurice Kief | 89 | Dec 24 |
| Earl Howell  | 89 | Dec 25 |

#### Happy Anniversary--25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> & over 50

|                            |    |        |
|----------------------------|----|--------|
| George & Patricia Koermer  | 62 | Dec 26 |
| Andrew & Naomi Welch       | 57 | Dec 30 |
| Robert & Patricia Haloskey | 54 | Dec 31 |
| Cornelius & Carol Helfrich | 52 | Dec 31 |

If you do not want your name(s), and/or your age in the bulletin please notify Barbara, Ext. 22

### RESPECT LIFE

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.” St. Maximilian Kolbe

### December – 2<sup>nd</sup> month

Merry Christmas from St. Mary's Respect Life Ministry! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, please remember to pray for the pre-born baby you spiritually adopted in November. Your spiritually adopted child is now two months old in gestation and needs you to pray that his/her mother awaits the birth of her child with trust in God, just as Mary awaited the birth of her Son.

Please see the following text on the 2nd “Little One” poster in the vestibule of the church:

Second Month (size: about 2 inches)

The developing baby is now called a ‘fetus’ which is Latin for ‘Little One’. She is making rapid progress developing all her external and internal organs. During the second month baby teeth form; fingers and toes are developing. Ears, nose, lips and tongue can now be clearly seen. Brain waves can be recorded. The skeleton changes from cartilage to bone. Forty muscle sets begin their first exercises. This Little One can now suck her thumb. By 8 weeks all body systems are present.

The March for Life in DC takes place on Friday, January 19. This year's theme is “Unique from Day One: Pro-Life is Pro-Science.”

## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

### Treasure – December 8, 2018

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Immaculate Conception | \$ 744.00 |
| Mass Attendance       | 151       |

### Treasure – December 9, 2018

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Offertory – Envelopes  | \$7,918.00 |
| Maintenance            | 2,206.00   |
| HolidayFoodBaskets     | 1,164.00   |
| Poor Box – St. Edwards | 845.41     |
| Mass Attendance        | 524        |

- The message of stewardship is that God's gifts, *shared*, will always be enough. Thank you for continuing to share your gifts with the parish, others and the Lord. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.
- Please consider remembering St. Mary, Pylesville **in your will**. Catholics of generations to come will thank you for your thoughtfulness and remember you in prayer.

### Christmas and Year End Giving:

**Christmas** marks the ULTIMATE GIFT – God's gift of His only son, Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus we remember that the three kings or wise men followed the star to bring gifts to the new born King; the beginning of gift giving.

We must also consider all the gifts God has bestowed upon us during the year and we must remind ourselves that we are merely stewards of these gifts. This presents to us a very special spiritual opportunity to make a return to God for His many blessings - a true Gift of Faith. These opportunities include our time, talent and treasure.

After prayerful thought and consideration please remember your parish, St. Mary's, at Christmas. Give your gift based on faith and the blessings you have received this year. Thank you for your generosity.

**Year end** gifts for the year 2018 must be in the office by December 17, 2018 to be recorded as a gift for this calendar year. Again, thank you for all you do for St. Mary's

### Contribution Statement 2018:

If you would like a contribution statement (recorded contributors only (Church Envelopes or EFT) for calendar year 2018 please call Barbara, Ext. 22, email – Barbara\_stmarys@yahoo.com or fill out this form and return to the office. Contribution statements **will not automatically be mailed. You must request one.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St., Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

(If you contributed to the Embracing Our Mission campaign or the Archbishop's Annual Appeal your statement will be mailed from the Archdiocese of Baltimore).

### **\*\*Next Weekend: December 22<sup>nd</sup> & December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Weekly Offering:** - Provides a regular predictable source of funding so the Church can meet its practical responsibilities; cost of facilities, administration, worship, salaries/benefits, religious education subsidy, ministries, and miscellaneous expenses. **(We encourage all envelope users to please use your envelopes. This will assist in decreasing the posting time.)**

**Christmas Flowers:** In honor or in memory of a loved one. Helps defray the cost of decorations and miscellaneous items for the church and assembly hall. This “**Special envelope**” can be placed in the

regular offertory collection along with your weekly offering envelope.

**Poor Box: "Local Assistance":** The donations to the poor box this weekend will help support local assistance where needed.

**THE ADVENT WREATH TRADITION**



The word "Advent" means coming. Each year we enter into the four weeks of Advent preparing again for the coming of Jesus. We long to know Him with greater intimacy and closeness, so we prepare through penance, reflection and expressions of our longing for God.

We need people or families to sign-up in the vestibule of the church to light the Advent Wreath each week. Please sign-up if you would like to help

**HOME BLESSINGS FOR THE ADVENT WREATH**

Each evening we say a seasonal prayer and light a candle. The flame proclaims that Jesus, the Light of the World, will soon come.

**Prayers**

During the third week, light three candles – two purple and one rose – and pray:

*Jesus, we know that you are coming soon. Our hearts rejoice that You are near. May that holy expectation lead us in the ways of your hope and love.*

During the fourth week, light four candles at mealtime and pray:

*Come, Lord Jesus, to each of us, to our family and to our world. We long for Your peace, joy and grace that bring new life.*

**PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT THIS WEEK TO PRAY...**

*"For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven..."*

**A time to be born...BAPTISM**

Through the Holy Waters of Baptism, we welcome into St. Mary's Faith Community...Corinne Elizabeth Miller, daughter of Jared & Morgan



**A time to be ...HEAL**

Please Pray For: Richard Ahlstrom, Emma Barnett, Annette Baxter, Betty Bennett, Vicki Bennington, Donald Billings, Cheryl Boring, Roy Broyles, Mary Rita Doak, Susan & Amanda DiPietro, Eva Eakes, John Gibson, Christine Gofford, Nancy Harkins, Jo Ann Heaps, Sam Hadoulis, Lorriane Hebert, Erin Huff, Judy Johnson, Attila Kekesi, Jarrett Lyons, Brenda Mullen, Boh Oktavec, John Ricks, Jeanne Berge Stith, Jameson Travis, Hilda Wachter, Penny

Wallace, Emma Webster, Weidner Family, Eliza Wilson, Mandy Wetzel, Clark Zander, Diane Zander, Lorraine Zorn.

**A time to die..."May our beloved deceased rest in the Lord's eternal peace".**

**"IN MEMORIAM"  
Mary Frances Snyder,  
Edward Roginski, Wilfred McCain, and  
Thomas McVan**

**PARISH ACTIVITIES**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We know that Christmas time is a very busy time of the year. Cooking, Shopping, etc. Could you give a few hours to help honor the Infant "Jesus" by decorating the Hall & Church for this very important holiday, "CHRISTMAS", and in turn be blessed in a very special way. Dates to decorate are: Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> after the 11:15 a.m. Mass move Decorations from Rectory to Parish Hall and Decorate.. Then on December 23<sup>rd</sup> after the 11:15 a.m. Mass move decorations from Hall to Church and decorate. If so please call Jackie Seneschal at 410-515-7498 or the parish office @ 410-879-4015.



**FOOD PANTRY**

Thank you for your generous donations. The Food Pantry will be closed in December due to the large outreach food program. The Pantry will be open on Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until noon, with a "snow" date of January, 26<sup>th</sup>.



**ST. MARY'S LUNCHEON BINGO TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019**



Join in for a relaxing day of bingo and lunch. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. and the low price of \$10.00 include admission, lunch and a regular bingo packet of 16 games, 3 cards to a sheet. For a small additional fee special games and extra bingo packets can be purchased. Also large print bingo cards will be available upon request. The Menu for Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> is:

Chicken Pot Pie  
Banana & Chocolate Pudding

The Bingo Jackpot for January is \$200.00

**ST MARY'S WEEKLY CALENDAR**

**Monday, Dec. 17, 2018**

9:30 a.m. .... WWP  
7:00p.m. .... WWP

**Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018**

7:00 p.m. .... Liturgy Ministry  
7:00 p.m. .... Baptism Prep

**Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018**

6:45 p.m. .... Scout Committee  
7:00 p.m. .... Cont Music

**Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018**

7:00 p.m. .... Choir

**Remembering Our Loved Ones**

**MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN**

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below  
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting in the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away the tear  
For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear  
But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas  
choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,  
For it is beyond description, to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me,  
I see the pain inside your heart,  
But I am not so far away,  
We really aren't apart.*



*I sent you each a special gift,  
From my heavenly home above,  
I sent you each a memory of my undying love.*

*After all, love is a gift more precious than pure gold,  
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other,  
As my father said to do,  
For I can't count the blessings or love he has for each of  
you.*

*So have a Merry Christmas and wipe away the tear,  
Remember, I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this  
year.*

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

**If Harford Co. Schools are closed for the day** ALL meetings, classes and activities are cancelled including Bingo (no make-up date). **If Harford Co. Schools close early** ALL meetings, classes and activities are cancelled. **If Harford Co. Schools are delayed**, all meetings, classes and activities will be held as usual, including Bingo

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**"Jesus' Birthday Bash"**

Sunday, December 16, 2018  
..... 3:00 P.M.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2018**

4:00 P.M. .... Church.  
4:00 P.M. .... Hall  
6:00P.M. .... Church  
8:00 P.M. .... Church  
9:30P.M. .... Caroling..Church  
10:00 P.M. .... Mass in Church



**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2018**  
Church.....10:00 A.M.

**NEW YEARS EVE & NEW YEARS DAY MASS**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

Monday, December 31, 2018.....4:00P.M.  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019.....10:00 A.M.

The Parish Offices will be closed on December 24 to 26, 2018.  
Also, Tuesday, January 1, 2019.