
First Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

Bombarded with Christmas decorations and music for weeks now, we are undoubtedly already anticipating the celebration of our Savior's birth. But today we are reminded that Christ's coming was not a single, on-time-only event. In the Gospel Jesus warns us that he will come again when we least expect. He is referring to the end of the world, but in truth he can also come to us in our hearts at any time: during a traumatic event, in a chance encounter with a stranger, or even through someone who's prematurely spreading the Christmas spirit. May we remain vigilant for our Lord's coming in whatever way or whatever time it may happen.

FINANCES

<i>Last Week's Offertory</i>	\$3,023.00
<i>Last Week's Online Contributions</i>	0.00
<i>Utility Fund</i>	725.00
<i>Other</i>	117.00

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Dec 8	8:00am	Weekday Lector
	11:00am	D Dudziec
Dec 9	4:00pm	B Russell
Dec 10	8:30am	J&J McAllister
	11:00am	G Hein



*Healing Prayers at Our Lady's Church – First
Friday of the month following 8:00am Mass.*



Mass Intention Requests

Please call or email the Parish Office to request a Mass Intention. The usual stipend is \$10 and Mass cards signed by Fr. John are available.

2024 'WARM Program @ Camp Maria

Dec 31 – Jan 7 *Volunteers Needed!*

WARM is a winter emergency sheltering program that relies on volunteers in the community to provide two meals and warm beds during the winter months. St John's is partnering with Camp Maria Retreat Center to support WARM Jan 3-7, 2024. **Volunteers are sought for meals and monitoring.** To learn more or volunteer, visit <https://sugeni.us/4Nxt>, or contact: Ann Kovalcik at Camp Maria Retreat Center director@campmaria.org 301-475-8330 or Mary McGlinn at (240)298-7645 or Walt Gardiner at (703)304-6264



Christmas Decorating

We will decorate the church for Christmas on December 17, following the 11:00am Mass. Please help us decorate and bring a dish to share if you are able.

Visit of Cardinal Wilton Gregory: *The Cardinal will celebrate Mass with us on Sunday, December 24th at 11:00. We hope many parishioners will come out to give him a warm Southern Maryland welcome on his first visit to our church!*

The Auxiliary of the Leonardtown Volunteer Fire Department is hosting an online holiday gift basket auction for Christmas on 15 DEC from 7am - 7pm on their Facebook page.

Novena for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception –

Please join us at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Morganza (29119 Point Lookout Rd) for nine evenings of prayer leading up to Our Lady's Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. We'll meet at 7:00 PM in the Church for about an hour each night, beginning Thursday, November 30. There will be time for prayerful reflection, silent adoration, and the chance to go to Confession during these nine nights. Please consider joining us for any or all of these nights of prayer as we prepare ourselves to celebrate what God has accomplished so wonderfully in Our Lady's Immaculate Conception. The Saturday and Sunday time will be for the hour following the conclusion of the evening Mass. Join us and bring a friend.

Pick up your 2024 Calendar at the Doors of the Church. These calendars are compliments of Mattingly-Gardiner Funeral Home.

Our Lady's Church Giving Tree 2023

This year, we are sponsoring a Christmas Giving Program to benefit the children of Washington Carver Elementary School. They are in need of the following items:

1. Elementary School Aged Children's Clothing of: HATS, SOCKS, GLOVES, COATS
2. Non-perishable, individually packaged, healthy snacks including: CRACKERS, COOKIES, FRUIT SNACKS, NUTS, & CEREAL BARS
3. CANNED SOUPS

We request that you bring the items to church on or before *next weekend, December 9/10*. Please place your items around the Christmas tree at the St. Joseph Statue.

SUNDAY December 3, 2023 & ITS VIGIL

Mass Intentions

Sat Dec 2	4:00pm	Doug Woodburn
Sun Dec 3	8:30am	John Francis Mattingly
	11:00am	Our Lady's Parishioners
Tue Dec 5	8:00am	Jake Mattingly
Wed Dec 6	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thu Dec 7	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri Dec 8	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	7:00pm	Barb Pudziec
Sat Dec 9	4:00pm	T.W. Bell
Sun Dec 10	8:30am	Jay Bowles
	11:00am	Our Lady's Parishioners

Charitable Outreach Committee

Our Lady's Church is collecting donations of food for St. Aloysius' food pantry. Please bring non-perishable healthy and nutritious foods (no glass jars please) to the church and place your contributions by the Sacred Heart statue. For more information on how you can help and what types of food they prefer, please visit, <https://saintalloysiuschurch.org/food-pantry>. With your support they are able to sponsor a **Food Give Away Day** on the third Saturday of the month.

SHARE THE WARMTH COAT DRIVE – The Charitable Outreach Committee will be collecting any warm clothing and accessories, such as coats, gloves, socks, etc. to provide for those who are in need of warmth on a cold day. Please leave items next to the Sacred Heart Statue. Feel free to contact John 240-528-0966 for additional information.

Men's Advent Retreat Weekends - Dec 8-10, 2023

An Advent retreat based on the Spiritual Exercises crafted by St. Ignatius is a wonderful way to prepare your soul for the Christmas season.

Registration is required. Cost: \$300 per person. Find more information and links to register on the website www.ourladyofbethesda.org. Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, A Place to Encounter Christ! 7007 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.

Camp Maria Retreat Center Advent Reflection

Series: December 8th, 15th, and 22nd. 9:00am-3:00pm. Includes Lunch. \$50 per session/\$125 for all three: Come to Camp Maria Retreat Center and enjoy a meal and day of reflection, prayer, quiet time, and discussion. Guided reflection topics include: Journey with Mary (Dec 8), Emmanuel: What does this mean to me? (Dec 15), and Preparation: What am I waiting for? (Dec 22). You can register for these events at campmaria.org or by calling the office at 301-475-8330.

Please, Pray for the Intentions of Our Sick

Mary Edna Bowles, Pat Riegel, Alex Duvall, Betty Leresche, Mary Alberta Goddard, Jerry Pope, John Rossi, Jeannie Pichee, Danny Maher, Alex Datzuk, Margaret Campion, Johanna Brubacher Malone, Mary Anne Groat, Bob Greenwell, Mary Clements, Virginia Fenwick Diehm, Alvin Kragh, Steve Himes, Theresa Clements, Marian Wright, Bill Benson, Rose Marie Benson, JoEllen Marek, Melissa Higgs Trossbach, Paul Woodburn, Jr., Eleanor Ripple, Jacqueline Muir Westlein, Patty Van Ryswick, John Allum-Poon, Evelyn Ryce, Teresa Fenwick, Claudia Fenwick, Cathy Norris, Ricky Burroughs, Anna Daugherty, Ben DeWeese, Dona Hamlet, Bob Russell, Jessica Higgs, Margaret Breakfield, Irene Dixon, Pat Bateman, Sarah Milburn, Agnes Higgs, James Trossbach, Edith McFadden, Beth Higgs, Peter Van Ryswick, Charles Mills, Alice Holly, Cecelia Knott, Ray Harding, Jr., Rose Spalding, Trish McWilliams Guy, Christina Howe, Jean Bowles Wathen, Jody Van Ryswick

Grieving with Great Hope

5-week small group workshop to help people grieving the loss of a loved one. Bereavement Workshop Dates in 2024: Sundays 3-5pm: 1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28, 2/4. Contact: Jennifer Bicknell (301-475-8064 x11) or jbicknell@saintalloysiuschurch.org

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

When God prepared to send the Son into the world as a newborn baby, a woman had to be chosen to bear him. God chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the Mother of our Lord, for she was free of original sin from the moment she was conceived. Her mother, Anne, was blessed with the privilege of bearing the sinless Mary into the world. ***Please join us for Mass to celebrate this Feast Day on Friday, 12/8/23 at 8am or 7pm. This is a Holy Day of Obligation.***

Parish Calendar

Dec. 6, 13, 20 & 27 – Eucharistic Adoration with Confessions 8:30-9:30am.

Dec. 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass times 8am and 7pm. This is a holy day of obligation.

Dec. 17 – Christmas Decoration and Pot Luck immediately following the 11:00 Mass.

Dec. 17 – Christmas Flower envelopes are due.

Dec. 24 – 11:00am Cardinal Wilton Gregory will celebrate Mass at Our Lady's.

Dec. 24 – 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass.

Dec. 25 – Christmas Morning Mass times are 8:30am and 11:00am.

Dec. 26 – January 1 – Parish Office Closed.

Jan. 1 – Mary, the Holy Mother of God Mass time is 10:00am. This is a holy day of obligation.

WE HAVE ADVENT BOOKLETS AT THE DOORS OF THE CHURCH FOR YOU TO PICK UP. THIS BOOKLET HAS THE MASS READINGS AND MEDITATIONS FOR EACH DAY DURING ADVENT.