
Second Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

“Make straight his paths,” Isaiah cried out, prophesying that the Lord would come to rescue and comfort the people of God. Centuries later, Mark quotes this call at the very beginning of his Gospel, presenting John the Baptist as the prophet who took this to heart, preparing the way for the Lord. Now, two millennia later, during this season when we prepare for the Lord’s coming into our lives and into our hearts how can we “make straight his paths”?

FINANCES

<i>Last Week's Offertory</i>	\$3,573.00
<i>Last Week's Online Contributions</i>	875.00
<i>Utility Fund</i>	785.00
<i>Other</i>	747.00

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Dec 16	4:00pm	E Abell
Dec 17	8:30am	A Moseley
	11:00am	G Hein

Camp Maria Retreat Center Advent Reflection Series: December 15th, and 22nd. 9:00am-3:00pm. Includes Lunch. \$50 per session: 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.

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.



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.

Christmas Flower Remembrances

Christmas flower envelopes are in the pews and at the doors of the church. This is a beautiful way to remember our deceased loved ones during this Holy Season. Return the completed envelopes by Dec. 17.

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 Dec. 31 – Jan 7.

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



Father Andrew White, S.J. School

"Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow, Living Our Faith"

Father Andrew White School Crusader Connections:

If you'd like to follow Father Andrew White on social media, please visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/fawschool.

Father Andrew White's open registration for new families starts on February 1, 2024. Please consider the gift of Catholic education for your loved one.

Father Andrew White is accepting applications for substitute teachers. For more information, please contact office@fatherandrewwhite.org.

SOMD MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS - MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 7:00PM - IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH, Lexington Park. Inviting all to lay aside the busyness of the Advent season and come be renewed, refreshed, healed by Our Lord. In the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament, inviting all to come, lay it all before Jesus and receive healing prayer. Come with expectant faith. Confessions begin at 6:30PM.

In honor of Our Lady of Fatima and to make reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate of Heart of Mary: The World Apostolate of Fatima, Archdiocese of Washington Division, "The Blue Army" Invites you to **Rosary, Mass, Confession, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Brown Scapular enrollment, and healing prayers. Wednesday, December 13 at 1:00pm** in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine, Michigan Ave, DC. For more information call 301-595-1770.

SUNDAY December 10, 2023 & ITS VIGIL

Mass Intentions

Sat Dec 9	4:00pm	T.W. Bell
Sun Dec 10	8:30am	Jay Bowles
	11:00am	Our Lady's Parishioners
Tue Dec 12	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed Dec 13	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thu Dec 14	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri Dec 15	8:00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Sat Dec 16	4:00pm	T.W. Bell
Sun Dec 17	8:30am	Graham Huestis
	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.

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 **next weekend, December 9/10**. Please place your items around the Christmas tree at the St. Joseph Statue.

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

Please, Pray for the Intentions of Our Sick

Amy Stalin, Mary Edna Bowles, Pat Riegel, Alex Duvall, Betty Leresche, Mary Alberta Goddard, Jerry Pope, John Rossi, Jeannie Pichee, Danny Pichee, 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, , Patty Van Ryswick, John Allum-Poon, Evelyn Ryce, Teresa Fenwick, Claudia Fenwick, Cathy Norris, Ricky Burroughs, Anna Daugherty, Ben DeWeese, Dona Hamlet, Bob Russell, 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

Parish Calendar

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

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.

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!*

Camp Maria Retreat Center Updating Distribution Lists Free Ornament if you provide contact information

We are in the process of updating our database so that we can communicate our events and updates more effectively. A free Camp Maria ornament to hang on the tree this year will be sent to anyone that provides updated contact info. Please visit campmaria.org, click the button, and enter your contact information.