

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend our nation continues to enjoy a long weekend coming off of our celebration of Thanksgiving. As a Church, we now begin the joyful and hopeful season of Advent that prepares our hearts for Christmas. Please take a minute to look at our Advent calendar of events (you can find it online at [www.olphparish.org](http://www.olphparish.org)) and plan on taking advantage of some of the ways our parish will be preparing spiritually for Christmas.

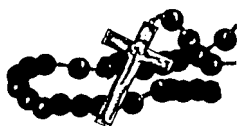
It seems that the daily news keeps reminding us of the difficulties in our economy, which only increases the sense of anxiety and worry that some are feeling right now. In the midst of this, I want to remind you, as your pastor, that our hope and trust remain rooted in the Lord Jesus who teaches us how to trust the Father: "So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?' or 'What are we to drink?' or 'What are we to wear?' All these things the pagans seek. *Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.*" (Matthew 6:31-33) *Our heavenly Father knows what we need and promises to provide for us when we keep Him first. Please know that I am praying for you that any worry or anxiety be countered with a deep faith and trust in the goodness of our Father. Please do not hesitate to ask me or Fr. Larry for specific prayers – we are here to pray and intercede on your behalf.*

I pray you have a very blessed and peaceful start to the season of Advent! God Bless!

Fr. Arnold

**Our Parish Advent Penance Service is  
Wednesday December 17th at 7:00pm  
Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.**

### ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS



Join us at 7 pm on Friday, December 5th in the church as we pray the rosary in the presence of Blessed Sacrament and ask the Lord of the Harvest to send more us priests; for without priests there is not Eucharist.

For more information, contact Fr. Larry

**It is not too late to donate a hymnal, please see the information in the Narthex after Mass today!**



### Masses For The Week

Mon., Dec. 1	6:30 am	Robert W. Banas †
	8:15 am	Angie Stallings †
Tues., Dec. 2	6:30 am	Mary Ellen Sadowski †
	8:15 am	Edward Wilson †
Wed., Dec. 3	6:30 am	Peggy Kelley †
	8:15 am	Aram Normandin †
Thurs., Dec. 4	6:30 am	Eleanor Short †
	9:00 am	Maggie Feiss †
Fri., Dec. 5	6:30 am	Genevieve T. Smith †
	8:15 am	Ermogene Meisenheimer †
Sat., Dec 6	8:15 am	Marie Mee †
	4:30 pm	Leo Maurey †
Sun., Dec. 7	7:30 am	Amy Desantis †
	9:00 am	Willaim J. Collins †
	10:30 am	Robert Klein †
	12:00 noon	For the People



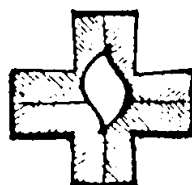
### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated each year on December 8 and is a holy day of obligation. This beautiful feast celebrates the conception of Mary without sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. In preserving Mary from the stain of sin, the Lord was preparing her for the special role she would have as the mother of our Savior. This feast serves as a wonderful prelude to our Christmas celebrations.

The Mass schedule for the holy day of obligation is as follows:

Monday, Dec. 8: 6:30am, 9:30am (with school children), 7:00pm.

**Please note: Because this feast falls on a Monday, we will not celebrate a Vigil Mass the night before.**



When grieving the loss of a loved one, the holiday season can be extremely difficult. **The Bereavement Support Group** invites all who have recently lost a loved one to join them for the next session on **MONDAY DECEMBER 1ST—7:00 PM**. The topic will be Grief and the Holidays. Call Sister Lorraine McGraw 410-788-7105 or Doris Eustis 410-796-9163

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

MINISTRY SCHEDULE for December 5-6, 2008

Saturday 4:30 pm— Fr. Larry

Lectors

EMHC

Servers

Sunday 7:30 am

Lectors

EMHC

Servers

Sunday 9:00 am

Lectors

EMHC

Servers

Sunday 10:30 am

Lectors

EMHC

Servers

Sunday 12 Noon

Lectors

EMHC

Servers

\*Subject to change when necessary.

*Please check ministry schedules online @ [www.olphparish.org](http://www.olphparish.org)*

The Schedule for December was not completed when the bulletin had to be submitted early due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. View the schedules on our parish website.

[olphparish.org](http://olphparish.org)

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**



A Musical Prelude will begin one half hour before each of the Christmas Eve Masses.

A Children's Christmas Program will begin promptly at 3:30pm, followed by the Children's Mass at 4pm.

Date	Music	Mass Times
Dec. 24th	Children's Choir	4:00pm
Christmas Eve.	Youth Choir	6:00pm
	Traditional Choir with Brass	8:00pm
	Contemporary Ensemble	Midnight
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Organ and Cantor	8:00am
Christmas Day	Organ and Cantor	10:00am



Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Vigil; December 31st—7pm Vigil Mass  
11:00pm—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Midnight Mass—Silent Mass  
January 1, 2009 9:30am and 7:00pm

**Please include the sick of our parish in your prayers that they may experience Christ's comfort and healing.**

- |                   |                      |                     |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Carol Beall       | Mary Grace Howard    | Rosemarie Rippel    |
| Clyde Bradley     | Francis Hubbard      | Mary Ann Sharp      |
| Diane Buckley     | Eugene Huget         | Ann Shively         |
| Helene Cadman     | MaryAnn Humm         | Mary Ellen Shotting |
| Jane Caldwell     | Jack Kelly           | Billy Simpson       |
| David Clark       | Fred Lourenso        | Jack Simpson        |
| Daniel Couvillion | Lois Malarkey        | Ardelia Smith       |
| Amy DeSantis      | Joyce Mathias        | Julia Smith         |
| Patricia Donadio  | Lucy McKenna         | Bill Snyder         |
| Mike Doshim       | Joseph Murray        | Joanne Strock       |
| Warren Drell Jr.  | Nathan Niessner      | Edna Walker         |
| Doris Eustis      | Mary Joyce O'Neill   | Laura Wall          |
| Jayne Fleischer   | Larry Putgenter, Sr. | Libby Weller        |
| Richard Flynn     | Mary Reichel         | Kyla Zeilinger      |
| Caroline Herrmann |                      |                     |

If you or your loved one is on the mend, please notify the Rectory!

**Sign Up for the Legislative Action Center!**

The Legislative Action Center is an e-mail service of the Maryland Catholic Conference that provides a simple and quick way for you to communicate with your elected officials and make a difference in Annapolis. It allows you to easily and quickly make your voice heard on important issues that our elected officials will be discussing and turning into law. Make your voice heard in promoting respect for human life and dignity, religious freedom, and greater opportunities for the poor and vulnerable. Sign up today by visiting our parish website at [www.olphparish.org](http://www.olphparish.org) – just look for the link to the Maryland Catholic Conference. Or you can go directly to [www.mdccathcon.org](http://www.mdccathcon.org) and click on "Legislative Action Center".

There will be a retreat for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion who minister to those who are sick, elderly, homebound, and in hospitals, nursing homes and group homes. Also welcome are those who want to join this volunteer ministry.

- Saturday, December 13, 2008. 8:30—12noon
- St. John the Evangelist parish at the Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia MD 21044—Rm. #1
- Retreat Leader: Rev. Ferdinand Ezenwachi
- Retreat Theme is—"Ministering by being actively present to others".
- Morning Refreshments and snacks provided. A free will offering will be taken up.

Reserve your place by December 5th. Contact Jan Shaw at St. John's, 410-964-1434. [JShaw@SJERC.org](mailto:JShaw@SJERC.org)

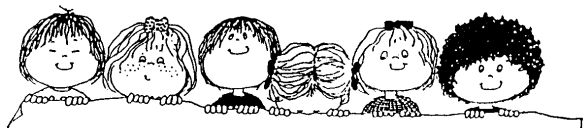
Questions: Linda Raudenbush 410-381-2747

[DRLMR2004@yahoo.com](mailto:DRLMR2004@yahoo.com) or

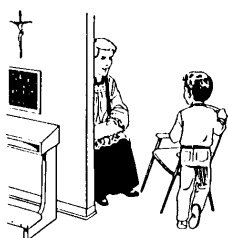
Fr. Ferdinand 410-964-1437—Retreat Leader

## CATHOLIC FORMATION MINISTRIES

Office Phone Numbers: 410-747-0131, 410-455-0399  
Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9am—4pm



**OLPH Nursery:** Our Nursery is available to all parishioners on Sundays during the 9:00 and 10:30 Masses. Children who can sit up, up to age three are welcomed to join us! The Nursery is located in the Kindergarten Room, on the first floor of the School. There is no cost for Nursery services. Space is limited to two toddlers per high school volunteer.



First Penance

Please remember in your prayers the children, and their families, who will be receiving their First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 13th. May the Holy Spirit open their hearts and fill them with God's love during this time of preparation.

**PAST DUE**—Confirmation paperwork is now past due! If you haven't yet turned in your sponsor information, parent retreat contributions, or ministry proposal sheets, please do so as soon as possible!

### Middle School Advent Party:

Friday, December 5th Join us for Dasher and Dancer's Dodgeball Tournament, Gingerbread House Making Contest, and tons of Advent fun! 7:30-9:00 pm in Harrison Hall. Adult Chaperones Needed. Grab and info flyer from the church vestibule.



At Breakfast with Santa (12/7), the HS Youth Group will be selling Discount Cards (much like coupon books, only it looks like one gift card) to raise money for our ministry. These **reusable** cards last for an **entire year**, with discounts from **18** participating local businesses, including Play it Again Sports, Qdoba, Great Harvest Bread Co., T-Bonz Grille, all of your favorite Pizza places, and many more! Cards are \$20 each and make GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS! Contact Erin if you are in High School and want to help sell!

## OLPH SCHOOL GIFT CARD PROGRAM

OLPH School appreciates your support of our gift card program. Remember to go to [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and register using the code FA8C1BF3889. Also sign up for Presto-Pay. Weekly order deadline is Sunday night for pickup the following Thursday or Friday at school, or after the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Mass. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no orders placed this Sunday. The next order will go in on Sunday November 30.

**OLPH  
Bull Roast  
2009**

**THE 2009 OLPH BULL ROAST** is just around the corner!! Saturday February 21, 2009 7-11pm, Ten Oaks Ballroom Only 400 tickets to be sold-- guaranteed to sell out--NO RESERVATIONS- Please call Vince Florenzo for ticket purchase \$50 per person; \$450 for table of ten We have ALWAYS sold over 600 tickets for this event so book your sitter, gather your friends and get ready for a good time!! Vince Florenzo 240 464-3415 [vcmaflo@verizon.net](mailto:vcmaflo@verizon.net)

If you are traveling this Holiday Season, don't forget you can call **1-800-MASS TIMES** for location of Church and Mass times or on the web at <http://www.masstimes.org>.

### 18th Annual Breakfast with Santa December 7th 8am - 12 Noon

Here Comes Santa Claus! Enjoy a delicious HOT breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus, photos with Santa (until 11 am), Kid Friendly Crafts, Raffle Baskets and Trees, Fresh Poinsettia and Greenery Sales, Face Painting, Secret Santa Shop for the kids and more!

Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success! There are many types of jobs available. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Shelly Drechsler at [drechsler4@verizon.net](mailto:drechsler4@verizon.net).

Donated items for the Secret Shop are also needed. The Secret Shop is a place where children can buy inexpensive items for their family and friends with assistance from some of Santa's finest elves. Donations for the Secret Shop can be left in the school office.

Thanks for your support and we're looking forward to another successful Breakfast With Santa this year!



## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### **Pregnant, Need Help?**

Call the Gabriel Network – 1-800-ANGEL-OK

**P  
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**Pro-Life Action Needed:** There are more than 40 pregnancy resource centers in Maryland that provide life-affirming, free support to pregnant women in need. The abortion industry has launched a nation-wide campaign to eliminate its competition by shutting down pregnancy resource centers. The Maryland General Assembly will likely consider legislation during the 2009 session that would seriously hinder the ability of these centers to provide assistance to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. Our parish is now holding an electronic letter-writing campaign to enable parishioners to contact their lawmakers about this and other life-related issues. Please participate by visiting our parish website ( [www.olphparish.org](http://www.olphparish.org)) and clicking on the link for the Maryland Catholic Conference.

### **Suffering Post-Abortion Stress?**

Call Project Rachel – 1-800-286-4224

### **Advent:**

#### **Peace in a time of frenzy...**

Advent is a peaceful and reflective time. A time to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior. So, how can a sensible Catholic spiritually prepare for the coming of Jesus amidst the frenzy and bright lights of the holiday season?

According to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops: "Catholicism does not call us to abandon the world, but to shape it. This does not mean leaving worldly tasks and responsibilities, but transforming them." Here is one tip:

#### **Tree trimming and decorating**



The ideal practice would be to hold off decorating for Christmas until Christmas Eve, but that isn't always practical. Instead, decorate your home and your tree when you have time, but don't light the tree till Christmas Eve. That's one way to signify the coming of the "light of the world."