



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We move into a very short 4th Week of Advent, with Christmas Eve coming this Tuesday. Our Christmas schedule of Masses has been running in the bulletin and you can also find it on our parish website as well. But before we move into Christmas too quickly, we ask the Lord to help us make the most of these last days of Advent. Throughout this season, Fr. John and I have been preaching on the unexpected ways that the Lord Jesus comes to us. Our prayer throughout Advent has been, "Lord, change our expectations, so that we don't miss you." Our expectations shape the way we act, and so if they're off base, our actions will follow. Sadly, this means that we can miss the Lord when He comes to us, if our expectations don't match up with the reality of how He comes. This final week, we see how St. Joseph himself almost missed what the Lord was doing, as he decided to divorce Mary quietly, when he learned that she was with child. Joseph's decision was made prayerfully and sincerely, as he sought to do the right thing, but it took a divine intervention, in the form a dream, for Joseph to be brought back on track. In our own life there are times when we sincerely believe we are doing the right thing, as Joseph did, only to learn that what the Lord has in mind asks us to go beyond what is just good or right. This last week of Advent, we pray that we won't miss the Lord in the midst of our attempts to be dutiful and faithful - it often happens that God calls us to an extraordinary obedience and trust that goes beyond just what the Law requires of us. Are we ready for that?

Since we won't have another bulletin until we're already in the Christmas season, I want to wish you all a very joyful and blessed Christmas with family and friends! May the Lord fill you with wonder and awe in the face of His great love that led him to make His home with us! Merry Christmas!

Rev. Erik Arnold

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

EFFIE FERNANDES
Mother of Cedric Fernandes

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society wishes to say thank you and Merry Christmas to everyone who took part in the Giving Tree Program. Over 900 gifts were collected and given to the many groups asking for our participation and support. Additionally, we wish to thank the many Middle School Students participating in our Religious Education program for assisting with the collection and storage of gifts. May God bless all of you for remembering the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you for all you do and for all you will continue to do.

Merry Christmas, The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

The parish offices will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25th. We will open again on Thursday, December 26th at 9am.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: December 29, 2013
*Solemnity of the Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph*

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5;
Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, December 21 (*Saint Peter Canisius*)

8:15am George, Kurian, Aley, and Thomas Thomas †

4:30pm Alice Mizerak †

Sunday, December 22 (**Fourth Sunday of Advent**)

7:30am For the People of the Parish

9:00am Julia Smith †

11:00am Shirley Ann Miller †

5:00pm Regina Price †

Monday, December 23 (*Saint John of Kanty*)

8:15am Patricia Chairs †

Tuesday, December 24—Christmas Eve

4:00pm (Parish Ctr.) For the People †

4:00pm (Church) Jay Seering †

6:00pm (Church) Michael Marks †

8:00pm (Church) Mary Ajayi †

Wednesday, December 25—Christmas Day

12:00am Jeanne Kathleen Sokas †

9:00am Mark Karczewski †

Thursday, December 26 (*Saint Stephen*)

8:15am Int. of Kathryn Delli-Colli &

Nick Belcher, Engagement

Friday, December 27 (*Saint John, Apostle*)

8:15am Grace Verpaele †

Saturday, December 28 (*The Holy Innocents*)

8:15am Int. Liz Hareza & Drew Brittle, Engagement

4:30pm Kelsey Mizerak †

Sunday, December 29 (**Holy Family**)

7:30am Robert S. Scarborough †

9:00am For the People of the Parish

11:00am Beth Szczybor †

5:00pm Alphonse Matulevich †

"The way to begin healing the wounds of the world is to treasure the Infant Christ in us; to be not the castle but the cradle of Christ; and, in rocking that cradle to the rhythm of love, to swing the whole world back into the beat of the Music of Eternal Life." — Caryll Houselander

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society is helping a family who lost everything in a house fire earlier this month. Any donations would be appreciated. Sizes and greatest needs are listed below. Thank you for your help and generosity.

Family Member	Coat/Jacket Size	Shirt size	Pants	Shoes
Male, age 51	Large	Large	40x30	9.5
Female, Age 39	Large	Large	14 Medium	7.5
Male, 19	Small	Small	30x30	8
Male, 17	Small	Small	32x30	9
Female, 16	Small	Small	2	4
Male, 9	Youth 12-14	Youth 12-14	Youth 12-14	Y-4.5
Female, 14 mo.	18-24 mo.	18-24 mo.	18-24 mo.	5.5

Household items needed, especially: Kitchen small appliances (blender, microwave, toaster), knives, mugs, plates, cups, can opener, cutting board, spoons, pots and pans, plastic ware.

If you can help, please call the parish office at 410-747-4334. Thank you.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD—A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31, 2013

5:00pm – Vigil Mass for the Solemnity

8:00pm to Midnight – Eucharistic Adoration

12:00 am – Midnight Mass

Start the New Year in a different way! Join us for Eucharistic Adoration on New Year's Eve followed by Candlelight Mass at Midnight for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Stay afterwards as we toast the New Year!

New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2014

9:00am – Mass for the Solemnity

Please include these people and their families in your prayers that they may experience Christ's comfort and healing.

“Anna & Family”
 Rob Baldwin
 Domenick M. Bellia
 Lucy Bodner
 Joe Botkin
 Graham Burrell
 Maureen Colclough
 Kaelynn Collazo
 Sean Cunningham
 Anna Curry
 MaryJo DeFillipo
 O.P. Ditch
 Kay Donahue
 Robert Dovalovsky
 William Dovalovsky
 John Duvall
 Janet Feldman
 Charles Fleischer
 Jayne Fleischer

Richard Flynn
 Carol Freese
 Thomas French
 Julie Gallagher
 Lorraine Gallagher
 Ray Gallagher
 Tommy Gregorini
 Joe Haupt
 Gail Higgins
 Mary Grace Howard
 Chuck Hutzell
 Alan Ignacio
 Meghan Jaecksch
 Ally Jarkiewicz
 Aaron Johnson
 Joan Klosek
 Marian Kubic
 Phil Lewellen
 Fred Lourenso

Josephine Lucas
 Jim McKelvey
 Lucy McKenna
 Herb Michael
 Bob Moan
 Peggy Moan
 Caroline Mohler
 Joseph Murray
 Nathan Niessner
 Sara Ann Ring
 Rosemarie Rippel
 June Rosemary
 Ephel Sandford
 Hugh Sandford
 Pearlina Sandford
 Bill Schone
 Sheila Schone
 Jack Simpson
 Ardellia Smith

Bill Snyder
 Rose Sorbello
 Crystal Spicer
 Mary Stevens
 Ted Stromberg
 Linda Uliana
 Laretta Vaccarino
 Sunny Vacek
 Ed Ward
 Jon Web
 Richard Weinroth
 Robert Welsh, Jr.
 Robert Welsh, Sr.
 Clyde Wenzel
 Kyla Zeilinger

We need your help! We are trying to keep this prayer list updated.

If you or your loved one is on the mend, please notify the Parish Office at 410-747-4334.



**MARRIED COUPLES,
SAVE THE DATE!**

February 7-9, 2014: Build-Your-Own Marriage Weekend. Because of the high cost of going on a retreat, we are planning our very own weekend for married couples at OLPH. Fr. Arnold and Joe & Cinda DeVet will present three opportunities for reflection. You may choose to go to one, two, or all three. Friday night: Holy Hour and reflection on Prayer in Marriage followed by a time of fellowship. Saturday: Day of Reflection—Excellence in Marriage followed by dinner and fun. Sunday: Afternoon of Reflection—Our Marriage and Our Blessed Mother. Stay tuned for more information.

MARRIED COUPLES...

The Annual World Marriage Day Mass is now in September. Marriage Encounter is still seeking nominations for the Longest Married Couples for their national search, but the Archdiocesan Marriage Mass for all will be celebrated on September 28, 2014 at Cathedral of Mary Our Queen at 11 a.m. Archbishop Lori will celebrate all married couples, no matter how long they have been married.

Longest Married Couple Search

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is seeking nominations for longest married couples. Please submit your names to our parish office, to be entered into the national search conducted by World Wide Marriage Encounter. **Nominations must be received by January 6th, 2014.** Call 410-747-4334, or email olphparish@archbalt.org

CATHOLIC WAR VETERAN POST 1961 MEETING:

The Charles Carroll Post 1961 of the Catholic War Veterans of America serves veterans and active duty military. The post will be meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 207 in the Center for New Evangelization of St. Paul Church (755 Saint Paul Street, Ellicott City). All Catholic veteran or active duty military are invited to attend.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SUPER BOWL (OF SOUP) SALE

Knights of Columbus Council 9638 will be selling its famous Maryland Crab soup as a "Super Bowl Soup Sale" fund raiser. Our soup will be for sale by the pints or quarts and will be available for pick-up after each Mass on Super Bowl Sunday, February 2, 2014. More details coming soon!

RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH

It's not too early to sign up to attend this coming year's 41st March For Life on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. For more information, please call Sue Smith at 410-750-7577.



**A Prayer To
The Holy Innocents
(Feast, December 28)**

Holy Innocents, you died before you were old enough to know what life means, pray for all children who die young that God may gather them into His loving arms.

Holy Innocents, you were killed because one man was filled with hatred, pray for those who hate that God may touch their hearts and fill them with love.

Holy Innocents, you experienced a violent death, pray for all who are affected by violence that they may find peace and love.

Holy Innocents, your parents grieved for you with deep and lasting sorrow, pray for all parents who have lost young children that God may wrap a warm blanket of comfort around them.

Holy Innocents, those around you certainly felt helpless to prevent your deaths, pray for all who feel helpless in their circumstances that they may cling to God for courage and hope.

Holy Innocents, you who are now in Heaven, pray for all of us that one day we may join you there to bask in God's love forever. **Amen.**

The feast of the Holy Innocents is an excellent time for parents to inaugurate the custom of blessing their children. Sign a cross on the child's forehead with the right thumb dipped in holy water and say:

"May God bless you, and may He be the Guardian of your heart and mind — the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen."

Encouraging parental blessings, St. Ambrose says: *"You may not be rich; you may be unable to bequeath great possessions to your children; but one thing you can give them — the heritage of your blessing. And it is better to be blessed than to be rich."*

Adapted from: www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=520

PREGNANT, NEED HELP?

Call Gabriel Network at 1-800-ANGEL OK or visit WWW.GABRIELNETWORK.ORG

SUFFERING POST-ABORTION STRESS?

Call Rachel's Vineyard Baltimore at 410-625-8491

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Blessed Jacopone da Todi (d. 1306) Feast Day: December 22

Jacomo, or James, was born a noble member of the Benedetti family in the northern Italian city of Todi. He became a successful lawyer and married a pious, generous lady named Vanna.

His young wife took it upon herself to do penance for the worldly excesses of her husband. One day Vanna, at the insistence of Jacomo, attended a public tournament. She was sitting in the stands with the other noble ladies when the stands collapsed. Vanna was killed. Her shaken husband was even more disturbed when he realized that the penitential girdle she wore was for his sinfulness. On the spot, he vowed to radically change his life. He divided his possessions among the poor and entered the Secular Franciscan Order (once known as the Third Order). Often dressed in penitential rags, he was mocked as a fool and called Jacopone, or “Crazy Jim,” by his former associates. The name became dear to him. After 10 years of such humiliation, Jacopone asked to be a member of the Order of Friars Minor (First Order). Because of his reputation, his request was initially refused. He composed a beautiful poem on the vanities of the world, an act that eventually led to his admission into the Order in 1278. He continued to lead a life of strict penance, declining to be ordained a priest. Meanwhile he was writing popular hymns in the vernacular. Jacopone suddenly found himself a leader in a disturbing religious movement among the Franciscans. The Spirituals, as they were called, wanted a return to the strict poverty of Francis. They had on their side two cardinals of the Church and Pope Celestine V. These two cardinals, though, opposed Celestine’s successor, Boniface VIII. At the age of 68, Jacopone was excommunicated and imprisoned. Although he acknowledged his mistake, Jacopone was not absolved and released until Benedict XI became pope five years later. He had accepted his imprisonment as penance. He spent the final three years of his life more spiritual than ever, weeping “because Love is not loved.” During this time he wrote the famous Latin hymn, Stabat Mater. On Christmas Eve in 1306 Jacopone felt that his end was near. He was in a convent of the Poor Clares with his friend, Blessed John of La Verna. Like Francis, Jacopone welcomed “Sister Death” with one of his favorite songs. It is said that he finished the song and died as the priest intoned the Gloria from the midnight Mass at Christmas. From the time of his death, Brother Jacopone has been venerated as a saint.



Image courtesy of:
wikipedia.org

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<http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saints/saint.aspx?id=1237>