

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2009

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS, FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 20</b>	Micah 5:1-4	Psalm 80	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>	Song of Songs 2:8-14	Psalm 33		Luke 1:39-45
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 22</b>	1 Samuel 1:24-28	1 Samuel 2:1,4-8		Luke 1:46-56
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 23</b>	Malachi 3:1-4,23-24	Psalm 25		Luke 1:57-66
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 24</b>	Isaiah 9:1-6	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 25</b>	Isaiah 62:11-12	Psalm 97	Titus 3:4-7	Luke 2:15-20
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 26</b>	Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59	Psalm 31		Matthew 10:17-22
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 27</b>	Sirach 3:2-7,12-14	Psalm 128:1-5	Colossians 3:12-21	Luke 2:41-52

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, the largest denomination of Christians in the United States is Roman Catholic. The second largest group of Christians in the United States is Catholics who as a rule do not practice their faith.

This weekend many Catholics who do not attend Mass regularly will be joining us to celebrate Christmas. What an excellent opportunity for us to practice evangelization! Over the weeks of Advent, we trust that we have both heard the call to conversion and, with God's grace, deepened our faith in Jesus – God with Us. As we celebrate Jesus' birthday, we should take the opportunity to share our enthusiasm for our faith with others who will be joining us. By welcoming everyone to our celebrations, we demonstrate our conviction that Jesus is with us when we gather together in His name. We invite all to participate fully and know Jesus' presence deeply as we listen to the Scriptures, take their message to heart, and praise our God for this wondrous revelation of His divine love.

May our celebration of Christmas not only deepen our enthusiasm for living our faith, but encourage all around us to join again in actively practicing our common faith.



**ADVENT SUNDAY EVENSONG** this Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, in the Church. Everyone is welcome to this beautiful praying of the psalms and readings.

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Church, Hall, Hood College</b>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Church, Hood College</b>
<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>Church, Hall (Spanish)</b>
<b>12 Midnight</b>	<b>Church</b>

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

(All in the Church)

**7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 1:00 PM (Spanish)**

**LET US JOIN IN PRAYER THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EMBRACED BY GOD IN A SPECIAL WAY:**

**In Their Passage to Eternal Life:**

Hermance Desir  
Msgr. F. Dennis Tinder  
Marie Rose Donnelly

**THE NURSERY will be closed Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

## UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** All are invited to participate in the **Midnight Mass Prelude, beginning at 11:00 PM**, entitled *A Journey to the Manger in Song*. We will tell the Christmas Story with wonderful choir anthems, carols, and Scripture. Come, join in the journey!

**CHRISTMAS WINE & CHEESE GATHERING, Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00 PM**, at the home of Hospitality/Fellowship member Becky Oden. All parishioners are most welcome and urged to join in the holiday festivities. Please bring your favorite holiday treat to share and a bottle of cheer. For more details and directions, please call Becky, 301-698-0321.

**CHOCOLATE RETREAT!** A women's retreat is planned for **January 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown. Join us as we connect the extravagance of chocolate with the extravagance of God's love and grace. There are still a few spaces available. If you would like to give the gift of a Chocolate Retreat to a special woman in your life, contact Amy Spessard for details and gift certificates, 301-662-8288 x1102. The registration forms with full details are available at the parish office or on our website, [www.stjohn-frederick.org](http://www.stjohn-frederick.org). Contact Amy Spessard, 301-662-8288 x1102.

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR of the Historic Houses of Worship, Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-9:00 PM.** We need your help! Our parish has been asked to be a Hospitality Site for all who visit our Church. See insert in today's bulletin on how you can help with the community outreach program.

## MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

**STAND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS:** The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. John's Parish are committed to providing a safe environment for children at our parish. **All volunteer ministers** who work with or around families and children must be STAND certified. STAND training is available on line. Please visit [www.stjohn-frederick.org](http://www.stjohn-frederick.org) and click on STAND Training. Contact Erica May, 301-662-8288 x1105 for more info.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**      **December 2009**  
*"You are well acquainted with the favor shown you by our Lord Jesus Christ: how for your sake he made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty . . ."*  
2 Corinthians 8:9

Consider gifts that keep on giving – gifts that make a difference. Ideas from Catholic Relief Services: A gift basket of projects is a simple way to honor the ones you love most by giving hope to people in tremendous need - see [gifts.crs.org](http://gifts.crs.org). Buying fair trade products is a way to bring the values of our faith to bear in the marketplace and to make consumer choices that help lift our brothers and sisters around the world out of poverty – see [www.crsfairtrade.org](http://www.crsfairtrade.org).

**RESPECT LIFE CORNER:**  
**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat:** Do you know someone who is hurting from the pain of abortion? There is hope and healing for those who are suffering the aftereffects of abortion trauma. All communication is strictly confidential. Retreats offer counseling and spiritual support. The Next Rachel's Vineyard Retreat is **January 28-31, 2010**. Call 410-625-8491 or toll free, 1-800-286-4224.  
**Are You Pregnant** and in need of help? Call the Gabriel Network, 1-800-ANGEL-OK or Birthright, 301-663-0111.  
**Suffering Post-Abortion Syndrome?** Call Project Rachel, 1-800-286-4224.

## SCOUTING:

**Are You Interested** in having your child in a Catholic Scouting Unit? St. John's has Catholic Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts (Elementary boys), and Boy Scouts (Middle & High School). For more info, contact Julie St. Croix, 301-662-8288 x1103 (Girl Scouts), Bill Desmond, 301-662-4151 (Cub Scouts), or Nelson Spessard, 301-846-4217 (Boy Scouts).

**Troop 1274** is looking for a burn barrel to be used for flag retiring ceremonies and on camp-outs. If you can help, please contact Amy Spessard, 301-662-8288 x1102. **Congratulations** to St. John's Boy Scout Troop 1274 on their one year anniversary! You have achieved amazing results in your first year.

**Troop 1274** held their winter Court of Honor last week. Congratulations to the following boys for achieving rank: Andrew Giacco-2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Alosha Tobias-2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Holden Salisbury-Scout, and Lane Salisbury-Scout.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 1622** wish to thank all the parishioners who attended our Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. With your support the Council will be able to donate \$500 to Birthright International's Frederick location. Their work can continue to aid and assist expectant mothers in our community.

**SPONSOR COUPLES NEEDED:** St. John's is looking for Sponsor Couples to help prepare engaged couples for marriage. If you feel called as a couple to share the gift of your Sacrament of Marriage, please contact Amy Spessard for details, 301-662-8288 x1102.

## FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

**NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES or YOUTH MINISTRY CLASSES from December 20<sup>th</sup> through January 4, 2010** for Christmas break. Classes will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>.

**CONFIRMATION: PARENTS, Check your parent folder** – Letters for Retreat are due this month! Please turn them in ASAP. Also, please contact Erica, 301-662-8288 x1105, to schedule your Confirmation interview. **STUDENTS,** Please check out [www.stjohne.com](http://www.stjohne.com) for details about Confirmation Retreat & pictures of O'Dwyer so you have an idea of where you are staying. Also check the site for ideas on choosing a Confirmation saint's name and service project ideas.

**WINTER EVENTS:** Middle & High School teens, watch for emails and the website for winter events in December and January!

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEEDS YOU!** If our recent requests for volunteers have you thinking, "I can't!" Consider this: We need men and women willing to get to know just 10 students, ask them weekly how they're doing, listen to what they say, and – most important – pray for them! Or, you might be more inclined to contribute your artistic or musical talent (teaching and playing), or perhaps to sponsor, as a business leader, one of our events or service projects. If you have a gift or talent, share it with

our young people. Contact Joe Mele, 301-662-8288 x1104, or [joe.mele@stjohn-frederick.org](mailto:joe.mele@stjohn-frederick.org).

## SPANISH COMMUNITY

**Legion de Maria** Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. Junta semanal todos los Jueves a las 7:00 PM. Necesitamos mas miembros que se quieran unir al grupo. Trabajemos juntos en union a nuestra Madre Maria. Para mas informacion contactar a: Nitza Rivas - 240-409-1998, Myriam Rullan 240-422-1718.

## ST. JOHN REGIONAL SCHOOL

**APPLICATIONS** are now being accepted for Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2010-2011 school year. For more details or to schedule a tour of the school, call Admissions, 301-695-9358 or visit [www.sjrccs.org](http://www.sjrccs.org). Tours are conducted daily from 9:00-11:00 AM. The next **Open House** will be held **Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM**.

## HELP WANTED

**ST. PETER'S CHURCH** in Libertytown needs help with their Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, held at the Church, for 2:00 PM on Monday afternoons, 12 midnight Monday into Tuesday, and 4:00 AM early Saturdays. Please call Linda, 301-829-2888, or Diane, 301-898-0833, if you are interested.

## BEYOND THE PARISH

**MAKE-UP High School Placement Test (HSPT), Saturday, January 9, 2010**, at St. John's Catholic Prep High School located at 889 Butterfly Lane here in Frederick. Registration is at 8:30 AM, testing begins 9:00 AM. \$30 testing fee. Space limited, call the Admissions Office, 301-662-4210, to register.

**REDISCOVERY WEEKEND for Marriage, January 15-17, 2010**, in Washington, D.C., for marriages in difficulty. Helps hurting couples heal. For more details, call 410-647-0350 or email [tomncarol@comcast.net](mailto:tomncarol@comcast.net). Also visit [www.helpourmarriage.com](http://www.helpourmarriage.com).

**ARE YOU SINGLE?** Interested in meeting people and developing friendships? The Catholic Alumni Club, a social organization for single professional Catholics, is looking for you. Our monthly activities include dinners, movies, cultural events, sports, religious events, and charitable activities. For more details, call 410-580-1250. See website, [www.cacbaltimore.org](http://www.cacbaltimore.org).

<b>STEWARDSHIP/FINANCES – 12/13/2009</b>	
Envelope Users (445) .....	\$20,298.00
Non-Envelope Users .....	\$ 4,469.08
EFT Giving 12/05/2009 .....	\$ 8,536.34
<b>TOTAL Offertory.....</b>	<b>\$33,303.42</b>
<b>Weekly Stewardship Giving Needed .....</b>	<b>\$28,251.00</b>
Second Collection: Religious Retirement \$	3,626.00
St. Vincent de Paul Society (Poor Fund) \$	1,716.00
Thank you for your continued generosity!	

<b>WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS</b>		
"SP" = Mass in Spanish		
Monday December 21	6:30 AM 8:00 AM	Special Intention Joseph Kellogg
Tuesday December 22	6:30 AM 8:00 AM Country Meadows	Vincente C. Somoza Jane James Margaret Rosewag
Wednesday December 23	6:30 AM 8:00 AM Edenton 6:30 PM (SP)	Nicholas B. Jarvis Ints. The Kelleher Family Judy Stoker Ints. John McGowan & Family
Thursday December 24	6:30 AM 8:00 AM  <b>Christmas Eve</b> 4:00 PM (Ch) 4:00 PM (Hall) 4:00 PM (Hood) 6:00 PM (Ch)  6:00 PM (Hood) 9:00 PM (Ch) 9:00 PM (SP) 12 MID	Daniel McGillicuddy Deceased Members of The Motley Family Miguel A. Canario Carmen Lay Bob Souders Anne Kathleen McGowan Willard VanSant (Anniv.) James Rusk Special Intention Nicholas B. Jarvis
Friday December 25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM (SP)	Robert Roth Douglas Magaha Audrey Woodhouse Special Intention
Saturday December 26	8:00 AM 5:00 PM 6:00 PM (SP) 7:00 PM	Jane James John T. Harwood Special Intention Matthew Romano
Sunday December 27	7:30 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM Ch 11:00 AM Hall 1:00 PM 5:00 PM (SP)	Ints. Margaret Brown People of the Parish Ints. Thomas Gillick Carol Newton Helen B. Coveleskie Special Intention

