



Christmas
December 24-25, 2011
Gospel: John: 1:1-18

Our Christmas celebration is about more than the birth of a child; it is about the salvation of the world. Christmas is a time to celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, the one who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary. The child is given the name "Jesus," meaning "Yahweh saves" us from our sins. Jesus is born so that we might be born to a life of grace. Christmas is the affirmation of Emmanuel, "God who is with us." Everything Jesus taught, did, and suffered reveals God's love for us. Christmas challenges us to live the kind of life that God's kingdom demands now, with hope and promise for tomorrow. Christmas is not just a day but a season. It continues through Epiphany and ends with the Baptism of the Lord, a celebration of God's faithfulness manifested to the whole world in Jesus Christ.

The tradition of having some kind of Nativity scene, also known by its French name (crèche), in churches and homes evolved during the Middle Ages, first in churches as a prop for Nativity plays associated with Mass. A crèche is a reproduction of the cave of Bethlehem with the principle characters: Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels and animals. St. Francis of Assisi popularized this custom with a living Nativity scene at Greccio, Italy, in 1223. These scenes, constructed from every sort of material, spread throughout Christendom.

May God bless and watch over our parish family this Christmas and throughout 2012.



DAILY MASS...(WEEKDAYS)

Bad Weather Policy

If school is delayed or closed, **no** Mass at 8:15am.

If school is closed or dismissed early, **no** Mass at 6:30pm.

If school is closed or dismissed before lunch, **no** Mass at 12 noon.

ADDITIONALLY....

THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS ON THE WEEKEND OR ON A HOLY DAY does NOT apply if you are sick. **ALSO...**It does NOT apply if the weather is too treacherous for travel. CONSIDER YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS ON THE ROAD. **We will have any cancellations of Sunday/Holy Day Masses due to snowy/icy weather conditions announced on the local radio stations.**



Dec. 25 & Jan. 1-NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to our Sunday School Staff & Families.
God bless you all!

CALCULATORS' SCHEDULE:

Dec. 25/Church: Team #1-Pentz, Kelly
 Dec. 25/Center: Team #8-Schriders, Shaw
 Jan. 1/Church: Team #2-Coviello, Bakers
 Jan. 1/Center: Team #6-Myers, Lynch

We celebrate the Holy Family on Friday
December 30, 2011-not a holy day of obligation



This is a day to remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families. We also may take time to reflect on the value and sanctity of the family unit, and to evaluate our own family life. What ways may it be improved? What would Jesus, Mary, and Joseph do? Finally, we can ask ourselves what we are doing to promote the family within our own cultures, neighborhoods, and communities.

✠ Mass Intentions-Dec. 24-Jan. 1, 2012, 2011✠

ALL CHRISTMAS MASSES AT THE CHURCH

Sat. CHRISTMAS EVE	
Mary & Stewart Bennett (✠)	4:00pm
Carly Rivadeneiro Family	6:00pm
(9:25pm Carols & Readings)	
Virginia Mondragon (✠)	10:00pm
Sun. CHRISTMAS DAY	
Parish Family	9:00am

Mon. **NO SERVICES DURING THE WEEK**

Tues.
 Wed.
 Thurs.
 Fri.

Offices Closed

PHONES WILL BE MONITORED.

NEW YEAR'S--MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASSES AT THE CHURCH

Sat.	Carly Rivadeneiro Family	4:00pm
Sun.	Parish Family	9:00am

(Daily Mass Intentions are subject to change due to emergencies, weather or the availability of a priest.)

✠Lay Minister Schedule: Dec. 31 & 1/1/12
MASSES HELD AT THE CHURCH

4:00pm -Sat., Dec. 31 Read: Thorne
 Euch. Ministers: Schultzs, O'Neill, DiSimone
9:00am -Sun., Jan. 1 Read: Sheahen
 Euch. Ministers: Donahue, Toston, Monroe

COMMUNION CLOTH MINISTRY:

12/25/11...Jean Schrider 01/01/12...Jean Coviello

PRAYER LIST FOR December ...we pray for: Joyce Jolles, Lora Chesney, Bill Murphy, Mike & Virginia Evans, Laura Harrison, Aiden White, Arden Bothe, Annemarie Poyer, Jack Ward, Kathy Hemmer, Tom Stuckey, Patrick Ashby, Bill Mott, George Miller, The Parker Family, The Marshall Family, The Bowling Family, Consi White, Richard & Jane Damewood, Rob McBee, Sharon & Pat Rothman, and all military personnel. God bless them all. (Names are taken off on the first weekend of each month. You may call the office at any time during the month.)

Blessings of this Christmas and the coming New Year



to our MANY PARISH HELPERS!!! We thank all of you who help in so many ways!

To all of our volunteers: altar servers, ushers, choir members, cantors, readers, Eucharistic ministers, leaders of prayer, nursing home/hospital/homebound visitors, Sunday School teachers, parish council, prayer network, decorators, money counters, the CDA, the K of C, all church committees, altar linen launderers, bingo crews, "Wednesday Guys" maintenance gang, bulletin & bulk mailing stuffers, funeral luncheon crew, community supper gang, fish dinner workers... **all our parish helpers**, *thank you*---for sharing your time and talent! We appreciate everything that you do! God bless you, watch over you, and bring you and your family His comfort and joy throughout the New Year!

HOMEBOUND PRAYER INTENTION for

December: That all may have a Blessed Christmas Season and may our world grow in harmony and peace

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR

December: That children and young people may be messengers of the Gospel and their dignity may be respected from violence and exploitation

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will be held each Sunday in the basement of the church after the 9am Mass. Join now!

1/8/12... Salvation History & How it Relates to Christianity.

1/15/12... Prayer (including Lord's Prayer)

Please call the church office or contact Patti Battista at 301-616-1644 for more information on the classes.

RESPECT FOR LIFE...On this Christmas Weekend,

we invite you to watch the video which features Alexander Tsias, the author of **From Conception to Birth: A Life Unfolds**. This video which he helped develop shows a visualization of the unborn child's development from conception to birth. The web address:

<http://www.lifenews.com/2011/11/23/astounding-video-depicts-unborn-babys-full-development/>

REMEMBER...EM's & Readers when you are scheduled for Masses at the church please sit in front of the pulpit in the **first 3 pews reserved** for you and members of your family.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY CELEBRATION on

FEB. 13...The Archbishop will preside at a special Mass to celebrate marriage at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen at 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 12, 2012. Parishes will invite their **longest married couples** to attend the mass and be recognized. **Marriage Preparation volunteers are also invited** to attend the Mass and be recognized. No registration is required to attend the Mass and reception. All are welcome.

TV MASS & FREE WORSHIP GUIDE

AVAILABLE...Catholics unable to participate in parish Mass because of illness, frailty, inclement weather, or other circumstances find spiritual blessing through "My Sunday Mass" on TV. *Heart of the Nation*, a nonprofit Catholic ministry, provides the weekly TV Mass and a free, large-print Prayer & Worship Guide for use during Mass and throughout the week. For a complete channel guide or to order the Prayer & Worship Guide, log onto www.HeartoftheNation.org or call toll-free 1-(855) 855-MASS (6277).

Keep the Spirit Up - A Day for Job Seekers and Career Changes, a day to support job seekers and those in the midst of career change. Led by Grace Garrett of Appreciative Cafe Coaching and Consulting, the day includes personal prayer, guided reflection and time for relaxation. After lunch, afternoon workshops on personal and job search management skills are available. **Call to make a reservation. Fri. Jan 13th – 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.** Cost: Free Will Offering – Suggested Amount \$15. Join us at Bon Secours Spiritual Center, Marriottsville MD. To register, please call (410) 442-1320.



Best wishes from Father Don, Father Paul, Deacon Don and all the Parish Staff to our Parish Family!

May the Infant Savior bring you the peace and blessings of this most holy season.

A Christmas prayer

To share his love, your precious Son became a tiny baby in a stable in Bethlehem in poverty and simplicity. We join with the shepherds and the wise men in wonder and praise to thank you for all we have, praise you for our spiritual lives, and trust in you for our eternal life. Amen.