

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 11:1-10

Second: Romans 15:4-9

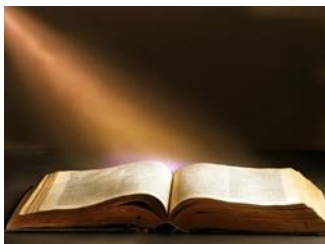
Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

FOCUS: *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!*

In the waters of baptism, we have been claimed for Christ. As we gather on this Advent Sunday, we recall and celebrate our rebirth in grace and our mission to prepare the way for the Lord. At the heart of this celebration is our repentance and our desire to be renewed with the spirit of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah foretells the advent of the Messiah: Upon him will rest the Spirit's gifts, and with him will come knowledge of the Lord. Saint Paul challenges the community to live in harmony with one another and to glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In the Gospel, John the Baptist preaches a message of repentance.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Eileen Coulter, Joseph Troy and Lilly Pabon

10 a.m.: Domingo & Rosalina Rodriguez,
John Ribas and Roy S. Jones

TREASURER'S REPORT

November 20-27: Totaled \$ 4,326.53

Envelopes: \$ 2,068.00 – Online: \$ 2,258.53

THANK YOU!

THE NATIVITY STORY

One way to put Christ back into the Christmas season is to participate in **The Nativity Story**, a brainchild of Fr. Sean's from several years ago.

Although this event is implemented through our Religious Education program, it is open to the entire parish.

Participants will gather in the hall at **6:30 p.m. on Friday, December 16**, and weather permitting, process to the outdoor Nativity where the celebration begins. The procession then continues into the main church for a series of Scripture passages read by children, and the accompanying reflections led by their parents, along with hymns and prayers.

Festive fellowship follows back in the hall while snacking on favorite Christmas cookies that the participants are asked to bring - and sipping on hot cocoa that the church will provide.

Please sign up, sheets are in the hall, so we are prepared with beverages and programs.



PAGEANT PRACTICE ...

Traditions add warmth to Christmas celebrations, evoking smiles and sweet memories.

A St. Paul's tradition is the annual **Christmas Eve Pageant**. Because of a conflict with first grade religious education classes, the first practice will be held at **6:30 p.m. this Monday, December 5**. It will last no more than an hour.

All youngsters are welcome and should meet Mrs. Rebecca Suchy, the Pageant coordinator, in Deacon John Hall. Questions? Feel free to call her at 845-699-7181.



Remember, the greater the participation, the grander the pageantry!

... AND THE CHOIR, TOO

The tradition continues with a call to those in Grades 3-12 to lend their voices to the **Youth Choir** on Christmas Eve. Meet Mrs. Debbe Garry in the church after Mass this **Sunday, December 4**, for the first rehearsal.

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday: 72

10 a.m. Sunday: 167

CALENDAR CLARIFICATION

Along with the Children's Mass with the Pageant at 5 p.m., there is also a **Christmas Eve Mass at 8 p.m.**

BE AN ANGEL, TAKE AN ANGEL

Thanks to the generous spirit that defines St. Paul's, there are only 12 "angels" left. They will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Reach out to **EITHER** Therese Quinn (845-313-0256; eat@frontiernet.net) **OR** Mary McCabe (914-420-0842; mmmk94@frontiernet.net). **NOT BOTH!** You will be given all the info needed for successful shopping!

Wrapped gifts identified with the angel number must be returned to Deacon John Hall no later than **Sunday, December 18**.



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

This **Thursday, December 8**, is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m. at St. Paul's. There will be no vigil Mass.

AT THE SHRINE THIS WEEK

A **Triduum Celebrating the Immaculate Conception** will take place at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown. It begins at 10:15 a.m. with a conference followed by Mass on **Monday, December 5, through Wednesday, December 7**. Fr. James Hess, O.Carm., is the presenter. His talks will focus on Mary, the Synod on Synodality and the conception of the listening Church. Communion, participation and mission will be discussed.

The celebration concludes with Mass at 11:30 a.m. on **Thursday, December 8**, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

You don't have to go to France to experience the quiet beauty of a Taize service, which originated in the hills of Burgundy.

Rather, at 7 p.m. this **Wednesday evening, December 7**, an **Advent Night of Taize Prayer** will take place at the I Shrine. This is a unique evening of song, silence, Scripture readings and prayer surrounded by the glow of candles.

"Who Is that Man Wearing Camel's Hair" is the title of an **Advent reflection on St. John the Baptist** that will be presented at 10 a.m. **Tuesday, December 13**, by Fr. Maurice Cummings, O.Carm. Coffee and cake will be served and a freewill offering accepted,

For information on any of these events, call Carol Bezak, Shrine director, at (845) 343-1879.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Reconciliation Monday is December 19. There will be priests available at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown** from 2-4 and 6-8 p.m. There will be **NO** priests available at that time at St. Paul's.

However, confessions will be heard at 3:30 p.m. for three consecutive Saturdays at St. Paul's - on December 3, 10 and 17.

"One day after a session at the United Nations, I found myself eating lunch with an officer of the UN Peacekeeping Force. At one point in the conversation, I said to him: 'Wouldn't it be a breakthrough if all the armies of the world were transformed to help those overwhelmed by natural disasters, rescuing people, re-building destroyed areas and towns?'"

To my surprise, he agreed with me. Let's imagine a world in which nonviolent armies are taught not to kill and destroy, but to restore life and assist in new ways of living."

- Sr. Jean Fallon, MM

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Parishioners are invited to remember deceased loved ones with a donation toward the **Christmas flowers** and decorations. Please submit the names by **December 16**. There are envelopes in the church vestibules, and the usual donation is \$10 per name.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

Parents and children crafted their own Advent Wreaths last Sunday, like the one depicted at left. Now about 45 parishioner families are marking the season at home with the lighting of a candle at the beginning of the week.

What a beautiful way to prepare for Christmas!



