

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 1, 2024



## First Reading: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

The Lord will fulfill his promises to Israel and Judah.

## Responsorial Psalm: **Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14**

The Lord will teach us his paths.

## Second Reading: **1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2**

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be holy and to please God.

## Gospel Reading: **Luke 21:25-28, 34-36**

Jesus teaches his disciples to be vigilant so that they will be ready when the Son of Man comes in glory.

## Focus: **Prepare for the coming of the Lord.**

As we begin Advent, our readings today offer wisdom in discerning what it means to prepare our hearts for the Lord. They are beckoning us to wake up and be attentive to what is around us, for God's time is at hand. We have the blessing of this season to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and to allow our hearts to be transformed.

## Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, Jeremiah prophesies that the days of fulfillment are coming. A shoot will come from the line of David, and it will be a time of security and justice. In the second reading, Paul prays for the Thessalonians and exhorts them to conduct themselves in a manner pleasing to God. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples what it will be like at the coming of the Son of Man, and that they are to be vigilant in anticipation of that day.

## MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: **Rose & Mariano Cannone, Gregory Coatti and Danielle Brooks Foreman**

10 a.m.: **Asumpta Clara Vulaj, Mary May and Jessica Lancellotti**

## WITH OPEN ARMS

Please welcome Howard John Wilkins, Naeja Fae Wilkins and Alyanna Margaret Conklin, baptized into the St. Paul's faith community on November 16, and Colin James Velasquez, baptized on November 23. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

## HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Monday, **December 9**, 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. Call the office if you are able to serve as a greeter.

## PAGEANT PRACTICE

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

A St. Paul's tradition is the annual **Christmas Eve Pageant**, preparation for which is already in the works. Role selection and the first practice will take place after the 10 a.m. Mass next Sunday, **December 8**. There will be another practice on December 15 and a dress rehearsal on December 22, leading up to the actual pageant during the 5 o'clock Mass on Christmas Eve.

Remember, the greater the participation the grander the pageantry!

## FESTIVE CHALLENGE NIGHT

'Twas just before Christmas Festive Challenge Night, Chris and Deb worked to ensure that all would be right. Candy canes were readied for their goofy game role. Holiday music was selected for a dance-off with soul. Marshmallows, toilet paper and cups lined in a row, along with other interesting props for them to tow. What clever activities have they devised? Attend and find out; don't just surmise.

All fifth- through twelfth-graders are invited to come to this SPYM event filled with merriment and fun. Note 6 p.m. Friday, **December 13**, on your calendars. Feel free to bring friends, but no salamanders! Wear jolly attire that reflects the spirit of the season.

No grinchies allowed – and for a very good reason!



Contact Deb and Chris at 845-248-3120 or [saintpaulsym@gmail.com](mailto:saintpaulsym@gmail.com) for more information.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection  
**November 18-24 – \$ 5,796.32**

Envelopes: \$ 2,060.00 – Online: \$ 3,736.32

*THANK YOU!*

## LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 105

10 a.m. – 161



## **THERE WAS MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR LAST WEEK**

We are thankful for another holiday season that officially kicked off at St. Paul's with the traditional **Senior Thanksgiving Dinner**. Scores of parishioners of a certain age once again were treated to a flavorful, festive feast – and for sure, no one left hungry! But even more plentiful than the food were the compliments –



to the chef and entire kitchen crew as well as to the Confirmation candidates and SPYM members who attentively served the guests. Kudos on a job well done by all!

We are also thankful for the multigenerational effort

that resulted in **75 Thanksgiving baskets** being efficiently packed last Sunday and seamlessly distributed the following Monday. Even more thankful,

though, were the recipients. One called the day before Thanksgiving to thank the team. "All the food brought tears to my eyes, and I'm getting goosebumps now just talking about it."

Also deserving of a resounding thank you is the **Pine Bush Community Band** for the gift of its annual holiday concert last Monday evening. What a joyful way to transition into Advent!



## **47 ANGEL TAGS STILL AVAILABLE**



Compared to past years, the number of angel tags claimed after last Saturday's Mass was unusually low, probably because the focus was on feasting! Understandable for sure; however, that means there are still 47 children in need of Christmas gifts.

Therese Quinn will be stationed at the Giving Tree after Mass this Saturday. You can also call or text her at 945-313-0256 or reach out to the office during the week if you would like to be an angel and take a tag.

## **IN THE DECEMBER LOOP**



All women are invited to hear Sr. Mary Gabriel, SV, speak about the beauty of the feminine heart at the **Feminine Genius Brunch** at 10 a.m. Saturday, **December 14**, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown. Register by Dec. 10: [adnyfemininegeniusbrunch.eventbrite.com](https://adnyfemininegeniusbrunch.eventbrite.com) or contact [respect.life@archny.org](mailto:respect.life@archny.org) with any questions.



Reconciliation Monday is **December 16**. 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** confessions heard that day at St. Paul's. However, confessions will be heard here at 3:30 p.m. on **Saturday, December 21**, rather than the typical fourth Saturday.

