

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 23, 2018

Sunday, December 23

7:30 am † Ida O'Connell
9:00 am † Albert A. Peter, Jr.
11:00 am † *Pro Populo*
7:00 pm † Emily & Thomas Brewer

Monday, December 24 *Christmas Eve*

5:00pm † Kevin Keyes
8:00pm † Reuben Finger

Tuesday, December 25 *Christmas Day*

9:00 am † James Bonfils
11:00am † Thomas & Patricia Brewer

Wednesday, December 26

12:00 pm † Lina D'Silva

Thursday, December 27

12:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Francis D'Silva (*Living*)

Friday, December 28

12:00 pm † Martha Deac

Saturday, December 29

5:00 pm † Paul Deac

St. Ann's Christmas Mass Schedule 2018

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00pm (Children's Christmas Pageant - Brass and Choir)
8:00pm (Brass and Choir)

Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day

No 7:30am Mass
9:00am (Cantor)
11:00am (Choir)

St. Ann's New Year's Mass Schedule

Monday, December 31:

12:00pm

Tuesday, January 1, 2019: New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation

9:00am (*Cantor*)

11:00am (*Cantor*)

No 7:00pm Mass on New Year's Day

Parish Office closed on December 24 & 25,
December 31 & January 1, and is closed on Mondays.

From the Pastor: Parishioners have requested clarification of the distinction between the Offertory Collection and Donations to the church as we go forth with modernization of the church, preparing for growth in the mission and liturgical outreach of St. Ann's Church. Contributions to St. Ann's Church may be made in two ways. The weekly Sunday Mass offertory and the monthly

Parish Building Fund are assessed at 12% by the Archdiocese to fund Archdiocesan needs and objectives. The special Second Collections mandated by the U.S. Bishops are turned over in full for these particular purposes. Donations, on the other hand, are retained within St. Ann's Capital One Bank Parish account and are not assessed. As such, Donations should not be confused with your offertory giving and should not be placed in the offertory basket (unless the Donation is clearly marked in a separate envelope with the word, "Donation" or mailed to the Parish Office). In this way, Donations allow the parish to take care of a number of significant costs incurred for various major needs (e.g., the church bathroom renovation, electrical and plumbing improvements, etc.).

Year-End Contributions: As we come to the end of the year, please remember your generous donation to St. Ann's Church. God bless you for all you do to help the parish to grow and maintain our ministry. At the end of January, after we close out our books, the parish secretary will be sending your 2018 contributions total to you in the mail. Please note that the parish office keeps a record of your contributions as long as you indicate your name and address on any correspondence and envelope; cash in the basket without envelope identification does not allow us to include that amount in your annual contributions. Thank you.

Thank you very much for your generosity to the weekly Collections at Mass. **The Offertory Collection** last weekend was \$5,787. **The Online Faith Direct** Total Deposit (includes Offertory, 2nd Collections, and Donations) for the second half of November was \$14,567. (We report to you the online giving amount twice a month). Your online gift to our parish helps to sustain our ministry and outreach efforts, as well as ongoing repairs and maintenance to our beautiful church building. Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness; please tell your friends about St. Ann's! Go to our website: stanndc.org and use our St. Ann's Church CODE: DC811.

New Parishioners: If you are new in the area, you are encouraged to register with the parish. Registration forms are available at the main entrance of the Church or from the Rectory Office. Completed forms may be returned by dropping them in the Sunday collection basket, mailed, or brought to the Rectory. Please let us know if you are relocating or moving away by dropping a note or calling the Rectory Office at (202) 966-6288.

Eucharistic Adoration: Join us this **Wednesday, January 2nd** and every **First Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm**. During your busy schedule, take a moment to visit Saint Ann's for Adoration of the Holy Eucharist. If you have been looking for something to enhance your prayer life, spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Church doors open at 5:30pm. Mark your calendar to join us on Wednesday, January 2nd at 6:00pm.

First Friday of the month: Join us this **Friday, January 4th** and every first Friday of the month at 12:00noon for Mass and the **blessing for the sick** with the Relic of St. Ann. St. Ann, pray for us. Join us also after every 12:00noon Mass for the Rosary

Angel Tree: Thank you to all who volunteered their time and efforts and helped with the Angel Tree collection last Sunday, December 9. Once again, together we were able to brighten the Christmas of 484 children and help their parents give them a joyful Christmas. This is a team effort and could not be successful without the generosity of the St. Ann's community and most especially all of you.

St. Ann Youth: More than 70 shoe boxes filled by Youth with the generous help from parents and parishioners. Thank you to all of the youth grades 7 to 12 who came out and helped fill more than 70 shoe boxes for the homeless last Sunday, Dec. 2. We had a great turnout. Also thank you to all of the parents who helped get the shoe boxes to fill, provided food, delivered the filled boxes to Friendship Place, and so much more. Lastly, thank you to all our parishioners for their generous donations, we couldn't do this without you! For many homeless, this may be one of the only gifts they get this season. Know that your efforts and donations are cherished! If you have questions? Please contact your Director of Youth Ministry via email at director@stanndc.org.

Respect Life News: Since the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) the Church has been strongly opposed to the death penalty. Pope Paul VI (1963-1978), for example, removed capital punishment from the fundamental law of the Vatican in 1969. A few years later, he asked the Spanish dictator Gen. Francisco Franco to commute the death sentences of five convicted Basque terrorists. In 1980, the U.S. Bishops Conference called for an end to the death penalty. And in 1995 St. John Paul II, in his encyclical the "Gospel of Life" (section 56), narrowed the scope of the death penalty's societal self-defense justification to "cases of absolute necessity" which, due to improved penal systems are "very rare, if not practically non-existent." Subsequently, the Catechism (CCC, paragraph 2267) was revised "to cohere with the encyclical's teaching." Later, Pope Benedict XVI (2005-2013) strengthened the Church's opposition to the death penalty. We note that during his November 30, 2011 general audience, he addressed participants in an international conference on the death penalty organized by the Italian-based Sant'Egidio Community under the theme of "No Justice Without Life." He told the group he hopes that their deliberations "will encourage the political and legislative initiatives being promoted in a growing number of countries to eliminate the death penalty" and that he applauded "the substantive progress made in conforming penal law both to the human dignity of prisoners and the effective maintenance of public order." We add that both St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI had "spoken out against the death penalty and [had] appealed for clemency for death-row inmates on numerous occasions." In 2005 the U.S. bishops' conference reaffirmed its opposition to the death penalty in a document called A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death. We see then, that the revision of the Catechism (CCC, 2267) effected by Pope Francis which declares the death penalty "inadmissible," announced on August 2, 2018, was not an unprecedented decision but rather is the culmination of late last century and early twenty-first century development of Church teaching against the death penalty. We should note,

regarding "improved penal systems" that in some recent instances dangerous criminals have been able to continue their activities, even behind bars. Should such criminal activities constitute a threat to society, which does not "ensure the due protection of citizens," as the revised paragraph 2267 puts it, it is conceivable that the death penalty could be imposed to "ensure the due protection of citizens" with more certitude (revised CCC paragraph 2267, Holy See Press Office, August 2, 2018; Catholic Standard, August 9, 2018, p. 2; St. John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, section 56; George Weigel, Witness to Hope, p.758).

150th Parish Anniversary Organ Concert Recitals in 2019 at St. Ann Church: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 7:30pm with Vincent Dubois, Organist titular of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris France. Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 3:00pm with Nathan Laube, Organist. Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 3:00pm with Oliver Latry, Organist of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France.

We welcome all of our children to Mass and invite our parents to use the small "Crying Room" near the vestibule of the church when your child needs some fresh air. We leave the good judgement to the parents to assist their children when they may need to step out for a moment. Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Bulletin: We welcome any information you may wish to share with others in our bulletin each week for the good of all. Please submit your news items or articles of interest in writing to the Parish Office at least two weeks in advance, feel free to contact us via email stann@stanndc.org. If anyone would like to advertise on the back page on the bulletin, contact Bon Venture services at (800) 883-4343.

For a child is born to us, A son is given to us; And the government is upon His shoulder; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6.

*Merry Christmas
and a
Joyful New Year
to all.*