Catholic Community of
St. Catherine of Alexandria &
St. Ignatius of Loyola
Port Tobacco, Maryland

December 1, 2019

**SUNDAY MASS**
- St. Catherine Sat 4:00pm
- Sun 10:30am
- St. Ignatius Sun 8:30am

**DAILY MASS**
- St. Catherine Mon-Fri 6:30am

**CONFessions**
- St. Catherine Sat 3:00-3:45pm
- St. Ignatius Sun 7:45-8:15am

**ADORATION**
- St. Catherine Mon-Fri 7:00-8:00am
- St. Catherine Sat 3:00-3:45pm

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."
- Mt 24:44

Please keep in your prayers those with long term illnesses and their caregivers. To have names added to or removed from the prayer list or if you need a priest at the hospital, nursing home or assisted living facility, call 301/934-9630. Please leave your name/phone #, person's name, facility and room #.

**Sacrificial Giving**
Weekend of November 24, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>St. Catherine</th>
<th>St. Ignatius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offertory:</td>
<td>$1,053</td>
<td>$1,062</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your generous support of our church & ministries.

**Volunteer Fingerprinting**

For all volunteers who work with children, if you missed the November 6 fingerprinting session, we will hold a make-up session on **December 12, from 6:00pm-7:00pm, St. Catherine Hall.** Please call the Rectory to make an appointment. If you miss this session, fingerprinting is available at the Sheriff’s office at the St. Charles Mall in Waldorf. Fingerprinting must be completed by January 31, 2020 in order to continue volunteering.

**Help Our Marriage**

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 24th - January 26th, 2020, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email: 3015@retrouvaille.org
FROM THE DESK OF FR. Q

Dear parish family,

Advent – A Time of Expectation

The Advent season begins today, as the universal Church fixes her gaze forward to the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The word *adventus* in Latin meant the arrival of somebody really important. Just as you might clean up your house in preparation for guests, so we are meant to put our spiritual house in order for the coming of Christ. Advent, then, takes on a moderately penitential character akin to Lent. The liturgical color is purple, the color of contrition, and we will omit the *Gloria* at Mass until Christmas. Christmas itself lasts not just for the day, but for the traditional “Twelve Days of Christmas” until Epiphany on January 6.

Our own comportment during Advent can and should reflect this attitude of preparation and penance. Here are some suggestions to help you observe the season in its proper way:

1. **Reconciliation** (Obviously!) In addition to our normal times, we will also offer extra occasions for Confessions:
   - Friday Dec. 20, 11am – 1:00pm St. Catherine (Fr. Q)
   - Monday, Dec. 23, 5-7pm St. Ignatius (Fr. Swink)

2. **Saying “No”** Our spiritual obligations sometimes must take priority over all the various parties, work and family functions we get invited to. We want our hearts to be at peace for the Prince of Peace!

3. **Mortification** It is appropriate to undertake a moderate penance during Advent (like we might do during Lent). Consider something involving silence, waiting, and eager expectation.

4. **Decorations** Even our house decorations can play a role in our Advent celebrations. Restrained holiday decorations are appropriate before Christmas, but then we go all out after the birth of our Savior! And keep decorations through the Christmas season – ending traditionally on Epiphany (January 6).

Let us faithfully keep watch this Advent season for the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Help make our churches beautiful for our Lord and our visitors at Christmas by making a special Christmas Flower donation. Donations made in the memory of loved ones will be remembered at Masses during the holiday season.
Mass Intentions and Readings

Sunday December 1  First Sunday of Advent
4:00pm Holy Souls in Purgatory
8:30am Mildred Minichino
10:30am People of the Community
Is 2:1-5  Rom 13:11-14  Mt 24:37-44

Monday December 2 – Advent Weekday
6:30am George and Betty Leonard
Is 4:2-6  Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday December 3 – St. Francis Xavier
6:30am Holy Souls in Purgatory
Is 11:1-10  Lk 1:21-24

Wednesday December 4 – Advent Weekday
6:30am Jeffrey Leonard
Is 25:6-10a  Mt 15:29-37

Thursday December 5 – Advent Weekday
6:30am Lisa Tuono
Is 26:1-6  Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday December 6 – Advent Weekday
6:30am Holy Souls in Purgatory
Is 29:17-24  Mt 9:27-31

---

Calendar

December 2    St. Ignatius Parish Council Meeting
December 3    St. Catherine Finance Council Meeting
December 4    A Grateful Plate
December 7    Bible Timeline Bible Study
December 10   St. Catherine Parish Council Meeting
December 12   Fingerprinting Session
December 14   Shelves of Hope Pantry
December 15   St. Ignatius Christmas Party
December 28   Shelves of Hope Pantry

---

St. Ignatius will again be donating goodie bags to the 13 Nanjemoy Meals on Wheels clients for Christmas. Please sign up in the hall after church to support our elderly population this Christmas season. Items will be needed before or on Dec. 22. Thank you.

---

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – NOT a Holy day of Obligation in 2019

This year, the First Sunday of Advent falls on December 8, 2019. Because the First Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the Solemnity is transferred to Monday, December 9. Because of this, the Solemnity is NOT a holy day of obligation this year. We will have Masses at 6:30am at St. Catherine’s and 7:00pm at St. Ignatius.

---

Shelves of Hope Food Pantry

Food Items for December

Cereal, Mixed Vegetables, Canned Potatoes
(white and sweet potatoes), Peas, Beets

Pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday
of each month at 9:30am

Please leave donations in the church narthex

---

March for Life
Save the Date

Friday, January 24
Join our parish in standing up for the right
to life for all. Details to follow

---

Save the Date!

St. Ignatius Annual Breakfast with Santa
Sunday, December 15, immediately following
the 8:30 am Mass.

Bring your favorite dish and a gift with the child's name. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Minichino at 301.743.3514 or 301.643.3210.

---
Christ’s Faithful – Hierarchy, Laity, Consecrated Life

890 The mission of the Magisterium is linked to the definitive nature of the covenant established by God with his people in Christ. It is this Magisterium’s task to preserve God’s people from deviations and defections and to guarantee them the objective possibility of professing the true faith without error. Thus, the pastoral duty of the Magisterium is aimed at seeing to it that the People of God abides in the truth that liberates. To fulfill this service, Christ endowed the Church's shepherds with the charism of infallibility in matters of faith and morals. The exercise of this charism takes several forms:

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP – First Sunday of Advent

When my first child was born, we had a nursery created for him that featured images from “The Beginner’s Bible” painted on all the walls. (You may have seen this Bible before, where the Biblical figures in the book all had large wide-open eyes.) Images of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, and Jesus were displayed on all four walls. On the largest wall was a big picture of Noah’s Ark with lots of animals. As our son got older, we would point to images on the wall as we read bedtime stories to him. Our son is now in his 20’s and living several hours from us, so those days are far behind in our rearview mirror of life.

We prepared quite a lot for his birth. When our next two children were born, the preparation time had decreased significantly. Most parents know what I am talking about. The newness of your first-born brings with it so much emotion that you are compelled to spend countless hours preparing. When the next children are born, you are certainly excited, but you act differently and with a little more reserve.

For most readers, this is not your first Advent. It probably won’t be your last. If you approach these December days simply as a way to prepare for Christmas, you may find yourself just doing the same old thing as last year. However, if you spend this time reflecting on the time when Jesus returns or when you shall see him face-to-face, you might be able to stir up some of that emotion of anticipation within you. Jesus is coming again. When people of all ages understand that reality, it can be a cause for large, wide-open eyes indeed.

- Tracy Earl Welliver

St. Catherine's Furnace Update

Fr. Q signed the contract for the new heating system for St. Catherine's church on Friday, November 22. It will take a few weeks for the system to be installed and tested. Our new system is a heat pump & propane hybrid, which should be less noisy, less messy and (most importantly) less costly to run than our old system. Thank you for your generosity which made this possible. Your contributions have covered nearly the whole expense.

New Furnace: $15,500
Donated to date: $14,545
To draw from parish reserves: $955

If you did not get an opportunity to make a donation and would still like to, we would happily accept anything you might offer.

Thank you for your love and concern for St. Catherine’s parish!
**WEEKLY FEATURE Opening the Word**

Make the most of Advent! A program offering prayer and insights for the Sunday Readings. Featuring a variety of experienced presenters including Dr. Tim Gray, Mary Healy, Scott Powell, Dr. Edward Sri, and Fr. John Riley, Martha Fernandez, and Ben Akers, the videos are designed to facilitate thought and discussion for personal faith formation or in the context of a group meeting. Personal Prayer Journals and a group Leader's Guides are also available to make the most of these Sunday Readings.

**BOOK OF THE MONTH The Power of Silence**

In a time when technology penetrates our lives in so many ways and materialism exert such a powerful influence over us, Cardinal Robert Sarah presents a bold book about the strength of silence. The modern world generates so much noise, he says, that seeking moments of silence has become both harder and more necessary than ever before. Silence is the indispensable doorway to the divine, explains the cardinal in this profound conversation with Nicolas Diat. Within the hushed and hallowed walls of the La Grande Chartreux, the famous Carthusian monastery in the French Alps, Cardinal Sarah addresses the following questions: Can those who do not know silence ever attain truth, beauty, or love? Do not wisdom, artistic vision, and devotion spring from silence, where the voice of God is heard in the depths of the human heart?

---

**Next Sunday 2nd Collection**

**Retirement Fund for Religious**

Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious older priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while they continue to serve. Please give to next week’s second collection.

God bless you for your generosity.

---

**Our recycling efforts for September - November totaled $200!**

As a reminder, please check your pet food cans for this project, as we can only recycle aluminum and many pet food cans can come in tin cans or other metals that we can not recycle.

Recycling containers are located outside St. Catherine Hall (next to the dumpster) and at St. Ignatius Hall. Any questions or for pick up, call John Minichino at 301-743-3514. Thank you for your support!
Read the Gospel and Color

Matthew 24:37-44 ■ 1st Sunday of Advent

CYCLE A
Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

NOAH
EATING
DRINKING
MARRIED
FLOOD
TOGETHER
TAKEN
LEFT
READY

STBFLOODEO
NOAHNYURMG
UGRDODTKAN
OEATINGWRH
NTYAUROLR
WHIKLCMHEM
OENERSEVEL
DRINKINGDE
NOWHNTHIEF
ISREADYCOT

Mission for the Week

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.

Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BEING READY FOR JESUS TO RETURN IS LIKE ALWAYS WEARING YOUR SEAT BELT...

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT, AND WHEN YOU DO, THERE'S NO TIME TO PUT IT ON.