

## **UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH**

### **Monday, January 6th**

Adoration and Confessions—6 to 8 pm

### **Saturday, January 11th**

Men's Group—7:30 am (Padua Hall)

Life Teen—5:30 to 7:30 pm

### **Monday, January 13th**

Adoration and Confessions—6 to 8 pm

**Adoration and Confessions will now be offered every Monday evening from 6 to 8 pm.**

## **MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY 6TH—12TH**

|      |          |   |
|------|----------|---|
| 1/06 | 8:00 am  | Helen Wall (D)<br>r/b Linda Gibson              |
| 1/07 | 8:00 am  | Ralph Stone (D)<br>r/b Woodburn Family          |
| 1/08 | 8:00 am  | Fr. Larry Swink (L)<br>r/b Hetmansky Family     |
| 1/09 | 8:00 am  | Pat Waak (L)                                    |
| 1/10 | 8:00 am  | Phillip Little (D)<br>r/b Weilmuenster Family   |
| 1/11 | 9:00 am  | George Terrence O'Brien (D)<br>r/b Hanko Family |
|      | 4:30 pm  | Parishioners                                    |
| 1/12 | 8:15 am  | William Burson (D)<br>r/b Woodburn Family       |
|      | 11:15 am | David Gormley Sr. (D)<br>r/b Gormley Family     |

### **"AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST"**

Pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased members and their families.

### **PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY**

Please pray for all members of our parish community serving our country both here and overseas.

### **Heart of Prague, Austria and Germany 10 day Tour**

Join Jesus the Good Shepherd Church and a festival choir composed of singers from different churches in Calvert County. You do not have to be in the choir to come on the trip. You will visit churches and main attractions of Prague, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich. Many meals are included, private motor coach, and 3 and 4-star hotels. Package including airfare is \$3,795. Contact Katie Evans at 410-257-3810 ext. 1017 or music@ccjgs.org. For online brochure go to: <https://www.petersway.com/9630.html>.

### **Thanks to the considerable generosity of our parishioners and their families,**

the Social Concerns Committee distributed Christmas gifts to 340 children at Birthright, the Ladies of Charity Pantry clients, and students in the religious education programs at St. Bernardine's. We are so grateful for the parish support to the annual Giving Tree Program. Thank you so much!!

## **FROM THE PASTORS DESK**

### **Led by the Light**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

As I look out my office window this morning, I can only see Chesapeake Avenue. The Chesapeake Bay is hidden from view due to the fog. I wonder if the Magi encountered this type of fog as they were looking for the light.

First, I would like to wish all of our parishioners a Merry Christmas day and season. For most of the world, Christmas is one day and it's over. A kind of "one and done." Many people don't enjoy the full benefit of the beauty of the Christmas season and that is a crying shame. Life has tremendous meaning and certain people in history have come to a better understanding of that reality. Take for example the feast of the Epiphany that we celebrate today. We read in Matthew's Gospel about the Magi who follow a star and are led to the town of Bethlehem. Matthew is drawing information from the Old Testament story in the book of Numbers (24:17) which says: "I see him, though not now; I behold him, though not near: A star shall advance from Jacob, and a staff shall rise from Israel".

Many of the Church Fathers saw this as a Messianic prophecy of the birth of the Christ Child. At any rate, I have always been intrigued by the Magi from the East. Later in history, the Magi would take on the names of Balthasar, Melchior and Gaspar.

These wise men were astrologers who kept their eyes on the heavens. It was a commonly held belief that a New Star meant that a new ruler was coming upon the Earth. Even though the Magi would not have understood the Old Testament prophecies, they could read the signs that nature was holding out before them, and so, they launched their long and arduous journey. They inherently knew something magnificent was occurring at that time in history. They didn't want to miss it.

T. S. Elliot, in his classic poem, "The Journey of the Magi", picks up on that same theme. He says:

"A cold coming, we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey, and such a long journey, the ways deep and the weather sharp, the very dead of winter... All this was a long time ago, I remember, and I would do it again, but set down this: were we led all the way for birth or death? There was a birth, certainly, we had the evidence and no doubt... This birth was hard and bitter agony for us, like death, our death. And we returned to our places, these kingdoms, but no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation, with an alien people clutching their Gods. I should be glad of another death."

Elliot's poem captures the sentiments of one of the Magi years after the journey and his reflection on the meaning of this historic event. The birth of the Messiah has changed the entire course of history.

May our Christmas reflections change us into more committed disciples of Jesus Christ who are willing to die to self and live for Jesus alone.

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

## **FAITH FORMATION**

**Children's Adoration will be on Monday, January 6th from 6:00 to 6:30 pm.** Children of all ages are encouraged to attend as we offer prayers and songs in this holy Christmas season, imitating those first adorers at the nativity of Our Lord.

***"This is the wonderful truth, my dear friends: the Word, which became flesh two thousand years ago is present today in the Eucharist." St. John Paul II***

## **LIFE TEEN**

**BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE!** So we know it is hard to be thinking about white water rafting and warm afternoon hikes to the waterfall at Life Teen's Camp CoveCrest, but we need our youth to sign up now! We will be leaving Sunday, August 2nd and traveling by Keller Coach Bus to Dahlenega, Georgia, returning on Saturday, August 8th. Reserve your spot NOW by sending in a deposit of \$100.00 by January 24th. The remaining balance of \$500.00 is due by March 21st. Check out St. Anthony's website at [stanthonycal.us](http://stanthonycal.us) to see a video of the fun we had last year-and do not miss CoveCrest 2020! Financial help is available, please ask Mary Beth Woodburn if you need assistance. We want YOU to be with us as we experience the **#bestcampever!**

## **MARCH FOR LIFE 2020!**

Please join us on Friday, January 24th for the Youth Rally and Mass at the Capital one Arena in Washington DC! Doors open at 6:15 am so our bus will leave St. Anthony's at 5:30 am. **You need a ticket to attend, so please contact Mary Beth ASAP to reserve your seat on the bus.** Deadline to order tickets is January 11th. The Youth Rally and Mass for Life occurs each year in conjunction with the annual National March For Life held on (or near) the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade court decision making abortion legal in this country. This year, St Anthony's will be hosting two youth groups from Michigan, Our Lady of the Lakes and Brother Rice High Schools, and we will be helping welcome them to our parish after the March.

**Our next Life Teen is scheduled for January 11th** beginning with the 4:30 pm Mass, where we will welcome all of our Confirmation students and their sponsors in the Enrollment Ceremony. Sponsors are welcome to join us at the Life Night session immediately following Mass. We will have dinner, and play some interactive games, all while diving deeper into our beautiful Catholic Faith! Teens and sponsors, please plan to stay!

## **MARCH FOR LIFE 2020**

**St. Anthony's will have a bus going to the March for Life in Washington DC on Friday, January 24th.** We need at least 50 people to sign up for the bus in order to secure it. We will leave from St. Anthony's at 7:00 am and return at 5:00 pm. The cost will be \$5 per person. We will attend the "Adult and Family Rally" followed by Mass at St. Matthews at 10:00 am, lunch at the Building Museum and then begin the March at 1:00 pm. Meeting back at Stanton Park at 4:00 pm to come home. **Please contact Denise Waters: [dd\\_waters@comcast.net](mailto:dd_waters@comcast.net) or 410-474-9393 if you would like to reserve your spot.**

## **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Vicki Baxter, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Florence, Dominic Brady, Jack Bragger, Jeff Carr, Jane Carrello, Bill Carroll, Mary Chin, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Elaine Cunnane, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Gavin DiBitetto, Dominic Di Iorio, Jo Finch, Anthony Fowler, Jace Fowler, Taylan Fowler, Aaron Fortney, Cathy Giancoli, Noah Christopher Haas, Anna Halterman, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Carolyn Humerick, Roza Ivanac, Lindsey Jay, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, Richard Knupp, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Anne Marie Mako, Josephine Martin, Mark Mann, Catherine Mathiesen, Kelly McCarley, Josephine McWhorter, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Sarah Olsen, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Babies Ace and Troy Remer, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Infant Brandon Simonds, Jr., Richard Swann, Bunny Tate, Marc Timms, Carolyn Vargas, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Chelsea Whittington, Shannon Wink, Sue White.

**Visit us on Facebook @stanthonycal**

## **FAITH DIRECT**

***Simple, Secure and Convenient.***

St. Anthony's has electronic fund transfer for your offertory and donations.

Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) to enroll, or pick up a form in the back of the church.

**Our parish code is MD768**

## **Offertory and Donations**

*December 21 / 22—\$12,278.00*

*December 28 / 29—\$6,857.50*

*Christmas Collection—\$28,850.10*

**Offertory envelopes for 2020 are available outside of Padua Hall for those who receive them.**

## **Next Weeks Readings**

### **The Baptism of the Lord: January 12, 2020**

**First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7**

**Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38**

**Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17**



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