

St. Joseph's News

St. Ann's News

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Dec 8 – **Parish Christmas Dinner** – following Mass
- Dec 9 – **Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party** – 6 p.m.
- Dec 10 – **Reconciliation** in the church – 3 – 7 p.m.
- Dec 12 – **RCIA** – 6 p.m. – chapters 15 and 16
- Dec 15 – **CCD** meets – 9 a.m.
- Dec 16 – **Bingo** at Singing River Rehab – 2 p.m.
- Dec 24 – **Christmas Vigil** – Mass – 4 p.m.
- Dec 25 – **Christmas Day** – Mass – 10 p.m.
- Jan 1 – **Feast of Mary, Mother of God** – Mass 10 a.m.

LADIES AUXILIARY MEETING/CHRISTMAS PARTY

Monday, December 9, 6 p.m. home of Jo Powers. Bring an appetizer and a \$15 gift for Sneaky Santa. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Eric and Cindy Turner** on their 50th wedding anniversary. They joined with other couples from the diocese for the special anniversary Mass celebration at the cathedral.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR WHITFIELD

The collection of leisure gifts and personal care items for patients at the the hospitals in Whitfield and Meridian will continue through **December 11th**. Do NOT wrap your items or include anything in glass containers.

BACKPACK BUDDIES Our parish donations of mac and cheese are needed weekly to assist this local ministry. Monetary donations may also be made. Place your donation in the regular collection and designate “**Backpack Buddies**”.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL THRIFT STORE – next sale – **December 21 (8 a.m.- noon)**

HEAVENLY HOUSEKEEPERS for **Dec 13– Team # 4** – Linda Clark and Donna Dart

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Did St. Francis of Assisi invent the Christmas crib? Not exactly, but his devotion to the Incarnation and his love for the poverty of the Christ Child certainly popularized this beloved custom. Long before Francis, it was a custom at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to enshrine a rich image of Mary, gilded and bejewelled, embracing the child Jesus. This church was founded as a kind of home for the feast of Christmas in the fourth century. In 1223, Francis was ready to celebrate this feast in a new way. In the tiny city of Greccio, he asked friends to prepare a place where they could experience the poverty and suffering embraced by Christ in his birth. It was a living scene: an ox from the barn, an ass from the stable, and peasants standing in for shepherds and kings. The night of the celebration was beautiful, the weather was warm, and people came in crowds, bearing candles and singing hymns that echoed through the forest. Francis himself chanted the Gospel and preached. The custom spread quickly, and by the sixteenth century cribs were seasonal features not only in church, but in the home.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Sundays – **CCD** – 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
- RCIA** – Chapters 15 & 16
- Dec 11 – **Advent Penance Service** – 7 p.m.
- Soup Supper** – 6 p.m.
- Dec 15 – **Advent Retreat with Parish Christmas Lunch** – 9:30 a.m.
- Dec 24 – **Vigil Mass for Nativity of the Lord** – 6 p.m.
- Dec 31 – **Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** – 7 p.m.

Advent Retreat – **Advent** is the time we need to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus’ arrival. **St. Ann’s** will be hosting an **Advent Retreat**. The retreat will be next Sunday, **December 15th** beginning at 9:30 a. m. Come hungry and we will feed you with the word of God and food.

BACKPACK BUDDIES of East Central – Items needed throughout the school year are oatmeal, grits, or cereal in single-serving packs. Box located at the church entrance.



AMAZING POSSIBILITIES

God sees them ALL. It's time you see them, too!

Join Matthew Kelly for a free email program that will help you enjoy a few minutes of peace and prayer each day during the hectic holidays. Take the first step toward discovering your amazing future at BestAdventEver.com

MAKING ADVENT MORE MEANINGFUL

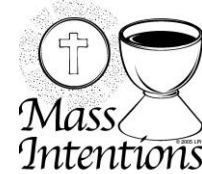
- Celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation as part of your preparation for the birth of Christ.
- Add a daily Mass 8 a. m. to your weekly schedule.
- Follow along in **Our Journey Toward Joy**, an Advent booklet of daily reflections and daily practices.
- Light the second violet/purple candle on the Advent wreath.
- Pray the Advent Prayer daily.

Reconciliation

- St. Joseph – Tuesday – December 10 – 3 – 7 p.m.
- St. Ann – Wednesday – December 11
- Penance Service – 7 p.m.

PREPARE THE WAY

Saint John the Baptist appears on the scene today as Advent enters its second week. The mysterious consumer of locusts and wild honey, John echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah as he calls for repentance in the face of the nearness of the kingdom of heaven. The rhythms of the Christian life are often confounding. Each year we meet the Baptist and hear his calls for repentance. Each year we see him pointing to the one who is coming after him, the Lord Jesus. Yet each year the words and actions of John the Baptist echo anew in our hearts, because we have fallen into old sinful traps again and again. Advent gives us the opportunity once again to turn away from our sinful ways and embrace the gospel way of life. John the Baptist invites us to prepare the way for the Lord, in whom we place our hope.



- Sat. 4 pm – Robert Smith (RIP)
- Sun. 8 am – People of the Parish
- Sun. 10 am – Edward Lee Roy Wainwright (RIP)
- Tues. 8 am – Maria (RIP)
- Wed. 8 am – Maria Ngat (RIP)
- Thurs. 8 am – In thanksgiving for favors received
- Fri. 8 am – Peter Vinh (RIP)

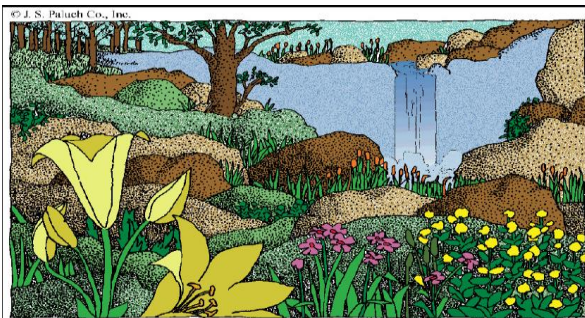
SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Sat. – 3:10 p.m.

MASS REQUESTS – If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for the intention of a loved one, a special occasion, or a deceased friend or family member, envelopes are available in the vestibule or you may call or mail your request to the parish office.

Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing, bless our family and friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. If you would like to add someone to this list, please call the parish office.



Arthur Trochesset, Barbara N. Thomas, Audria Viers, the Holt family, Janet Wells, Nicole Mary Green, Effie Williams, Gary Brown, Kelly Chamberlain, George Hinkel, Eva Hinkel, Wanda St. Andrie, Laurie Laffery, Steve Martinez, Glenda Jackson, Charles Pinkney, Tom Browning, Judy Smith, Susan George, Jane Norton, Nikki Hans, Gloria Long, Linda Huy, Conner Driscoll, Amsley Goodings, Tenny Henderson, Ellen Scheeler, Lara Lander, Mary Jo Garrett, Inge Bellone, Nathan Rowe, Anita Matthews, Denny Denmark, Tim and Annette Spiriti, Ron Hudson, Joanie and Kermit Loupe, Norman Jardine, Gail Seely, Deborah Green, Kenneth Hoskins, Greg Davidson, Krista Toehay, Jaina Snyder, Pat McAdams, Barbara Easley, Bruce Merrill, Elma Carter, Kay McBroom, Deacon Emery Elder, Karen Zettler, Kris Allen, Christi Seely, Betty Bodden, Dixie McCormack, the unborn, the family of Michael Hunt, all the faithful departed, and all military personnel stationed in harm's way.



The Kingdom of Heaven Is at Hand.

Envelopes for Christmas Flower donations are available in the church. You may donate "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone. These names will be printed in the special Christmas bulletin. Envelopes may be placed in the regular collection by **December 22.**



COLLECTIONS – NOVEMBER 30 – December 1

ST. JOSEPH

- Regular Collection – \$ 3,393.00
- Building Fund – \$ 200.00
- St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy – \$ 533.00
- Christmas Flower Donations – \$ 810.00
- Children's Collection – \$ 2.85

ST. ANN

- Regular Collection – \$ 1,826.00
- St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy – \$ 444.00
- Children's Offertory – \$ 21.00
- Christmas Flower Donations – \$ 20.00



SUPPORT OUR AGING RELIGIOUS

Our second collection this weekend is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.