

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH
JANUARY 1ST—JANUARY 7TH

Monday, January 1st
(not a Holy Day this year)
Mass—10:00 AM
Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2nd
Gospel Faith Sharing—11:30 AM (3)

Thursday, January 4th
Ladies of Charity Meeting—6:30 PM (3)

Saturday, January 6th
First Penance Retreat—9:45 to 12:30 (1,2)
(Parents and Children)

Sunday, January 7th
K of C Breakfast—8:30 to 11 AM (2)
Children's Liturgy of the Word— 8:15 Mass
Healing Mass—3 PM

Legend

Church (1) Padua Hall (2)
Religious Education (3) Ewald Center (4)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF

JANUARY 1ST—7TH

Monday: Donald Exner
r/b Ladies of Charity

Tuesday: Donald Exner
r/b Deacon Ed & Nora Baker

Wednesday: Joseph Brown
r/b Ladies of Charity

Thursday: Al & Marie Engel
r/b Marty Byer

Friday: John Waak
r/b Hanko Family

Saturday: Gabby Garay
r/b Deacon Ed & Nora Baker
Ernie Arhar
r/b Josephine Martin

Sunday: Thomas Elliott Gavchal
r/b Deacon Ed Baker
Parishioners

“AND I WILL GIVE THEM REST”

Please 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 serving our country both here and overseas.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

The next Baptism class for parents registered in the parish will be held on Saturday, February 3rd at 10:00 AM in the Religious Education Center. Call the office by Thursday, February 1st if you plan to attend, 443-646-5721.

FROM THE PASTORS DESK

Christmas: Reflecting God's Glory

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Anthony's,

I write just prior to the great Christmas event, but by the time this article hits the press, you and your family will have celebrated the wonderful day of Christmas. For the worldly, Christmas is a “day” and when it is all over it's back to the usual; except for the hassle of going to the department stores to bring back broken gifts or to exchange something that doesn't fit quite right. But for the Christian, it is a beautiful season that lasts a few weeks and culminates with the feast of the Kings, the baptism of Jesus and the self manifestation of Jesus at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.

Every morning as I walk over to the church for morning Mass, I witness the wonderful goodness of the people I see stopping in at the Citgo station. They obviously are not aware that they are being observed. Most of them just want to fill their tank with gas, get their coffee and move on up the road. I really don't know the story behind most of their faces, but I am struck by the fact that they are trying to do the best they can to support their families and put food on their tables. Sometimes they will glance over at me and acknowledge my collar and see that the priest of the town is taking notice. It, for the most part, is a nice exchange of smiles and glances. I do pray for them. I have picked up a few converts from there, as you know. Whether they know it or not, they uniquely reflect God's Glory. Yes, like all of us, I am sure they are aware of their sinfulness; but God's beautiful life still shines through the windows of their humanity, even though it's a little dirty and has a number of smudges on it. They, like all of us, are works in progress!!!

I am very fortunate to be in the Catholic Church. It obviously wasn't my choice. I am a cradle Catholic, born into this faith of ours and never felt the need to leave it. Even though I too have had different gripes with the Church from time to time, what has always kept me grounded was the Eucharist. Yes, the Lord Jesus' presence in the Holy Eucharist is the one and only thing that that has kept me around. The reception of the Eucharist is to take into our minds, bodies and souls, Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead. This is the source of our glory.

The Catholic faith is also the faith of the Saints. One saint that I have always had an admiration for is St. Benedict Joseph Labre (1748-1783.) He lived an unusual life. He wandered through Rome and died penniless around the area of the Roman Colosseum. He is the patron Saint of the mentally ill. For those in our society who suffer from anxiety and inner turmoil, you have a beautiful friend in heaven that is aware of the fearfulness that you suffer every moment of your life. He is one of those saints that I constantly keep close to me.

During this time of great joy, may we keep in mind the many among us who suffer greatly in this world. In the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception there is a statue to him on the rear wall of this magnificent structure. May our parish always be a place of welcome to those souls who seek our God's love and mercy.

Peace, In Christ Jesus, Fr. Stack

FAITH FORMATION

The **First Penance Retreat** for parents and children will be held on Saturday, January 6th from 9:45 to 12:30 PM. Attendance is expected.

"GIFT"

The next high school "GIFT" meeting will be **Saturday, January 13th**. We will join with the Life Teen group for Mass at 5:30, pot luck dinner and fellowship.

Contact Deacon Eric with questions.

All Are Welcome!

A PRAYER FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



RENEWING FAMILY FAITH

God and Father of us all, Jesus, your son and our Savior, you have made us your sons and daughters in the family of the Church. May your grace and love help our families in every part of the world be united to one another in fidelity to the Gospel. May the example of the Holy Family, with the aid of your Holy Spirit, guide all families, especially those most troubled, to be homes of communion and prayer and to always seek your truth and live in your love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

World Meeting of Families Prayer—Pope Francis— September, 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 19th—March for Life
Washington, D.C.**

Bus transportation is available, please call the office for information.

**February 20th and 21st – Parish Mission
With Monsignor Charles Pope**

Msgr. Charles Pope is the pastor at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian in Washington, D.C. The theme will be "Renewed in Christ". Check out his blog at:

<http://blog.adw.org/author/cpope/>

2018 Offertory Envelopes are available for pick-up outside of Padua Hall.

Please call the office if you did not receive envelopes and would like to.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vicki Baxter, John Bell, Sam "Bo" Bradley, Marlene Bradshaw, Ralph Carrello, Bill Carroll, Helga Cuevas, Luis Cuevas, Jean Davis, Sig Degitz, Luke Engler, Jo Finch, Anthony Fowler, Taylan Fowler, Louise Floren, John P. Flynn, Noah Christopher Haas, Marie Heaton, Maslynn Holmes, Cory Honoker, Roza Ivanac, Kayla Johnston, Shirley Kallal, William Kallal, Rick Kollinger, Brian Lloyd, Donna Lynch, Mark Mann, Walter Matziet, Kelly McCarley, Jennifer Melanab, Margie Edwards Morgan, Joanne Nielsen, Mary Ogle, William Owens, Doris Pettko, Darley Phillips, Payton Phillips, Ray Pyles, Jonathan Rieger, Carolyn Ritch, Joel Rivera, Grayson David Rodriguez, Wayne Romanek, Geri Rosen, Kristy Salek, Bunny Tate, Betty Theurer, Susan Vilcheck, Pat Waak, Shannon Wink, Richard Walton.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JANUARY 7TH, 2018

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Isaiah speaks poetically of the coming of the Lord. He describes how "darkness covers the earth" but light and glory appear over God's chosen people.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

Paul tells the Ephesians that the Jews and Gentiles are now co-heirs of the promises God has made. He explains that both groups are now members of one body through Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus' birth, three astrologers from the east came to Jerusalem and inquired about the newborn king of the Jews. King Herod became greatly angered, and asked the astrologers to bring him more information about the child once they had found him, so that he too could pay homage to the infant. However, Herod's true plan was to kill Jesus. The wise men were warned in a dream not to return to him and they took a different route to return home.

GOSPEL QUESTION

When have you found the presence of Christ in an unexpected place?

CONTRIBUTIONS

As always, we are most grateful for your generous contributions to our parish.

CARDINAL HICKEY OPEN HOUSE

January 28th, from 12:30 to 2 PM, Cardinal Hickey Academy will hold their open house! Get more information on how to start a faith based education for your children. We are now enrolling Pre K—8th grades. If you can't wait until then, visit our website at www.cardinalhickeyacademy.org or email us at development@cardinalhickeyacademy.org.