

FROM THE PASTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR & HAPPY ADVENT – Today we celebrate both the first day of the **Year of Grace 2018** and the start of the penitential season of **Advent**. It strikes me that on the **first day** of each Church Year our Tradition directs our attention to the **last day**: the end of time, the final coming of the Christ, the consummation of creation. “And the end of all our exploring will be to arrive where we started, and know the place for the first time,” wrote T.S. Eliot. Having completed our journey through the Year of Grace 2017, have we gained any more insight into the purpose of life and are we living in greater conformity with what we are graced to see?

ADVENT - The word Advent means “**Coming**,” and the coming of Christ has three senses: 1) His **first** coming in Bethlehem; 2) his **final** coming toward which today’s liturgy directs our attention; and 3) what St. Bernard called Christ’s **middle** coming, when the Lord comes into our consciousness and calls us to life of continuing conversion. When we take the next step below the surface of life into a more complete relationship with the Truth about life, self, other, and God we are living baptismally which is to re-pent or to live a penitential life.

A PENITENTIAL SEASON – To do penance is to atone; or even better, to at-one. As St. Paul teaches, “Do not conform yourselves to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2). We are called to practical repentance every day of our lives; however, during the annual Penitential Seasons of Advent and Lent, our Tradition directs us to take our normal, daily acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving “up a notch.”

PRACTICAL PENANCE – Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving are the three classic, time-tried and people-proven penitential practices. This Advent we invite you to pray by using the *Little Blue Books* each day, by participating in one of our several Bible Study groups, and by encountering Jesus in the Sacrament of Penance. As for fasting, how about unplugging at least once a day and then using that sacred space for prayer or service? Regarding almsgiving, you could give of your money by way of the Giving Tree in chapel, parish

poor boxes, Code Blue and the Wish Lists of various local human service groups posted in our worship sites. Further, you might give of our your time and talents by volunteering at one of the many worthy organizations in our town.

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE - This Advent sixty-one of our children are meeting the Lord in the Sacrament of Penance for the first time, and during Advent Fr. Heim and I will be available more frequently each week for Confessions. The schedule for Confessions as well as materials to help adults examine their conscience and consciousness are available in our worship sites and on our Parish Website.



“A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER” – is a phrase Pope Francis uses often to describe, encourage and challenge us to live the Gospel in this world. A major theme of Advent is **Hope**: that is, an expectant longing for a new encounter with the Christ of God for whom we are actively waiting.



Share the Journey
#sharejourney

“SHARE THE JOURNEY”

is an initiative of Pope Francis to promote the culture of encounter in communities where migrants and refugees leave and return to, where they travel through, and where they make their new homes. The campaign aims to dispel fear and inspire communities to build relationships with those forced to leave their native lands due to violence, oppression, famine, and other hardships. Thanks to the cooperative spirit in our community we have many opportunities for such encounters with folks who are hungry, cold and homeless; refugees, migrants, sick, elderly and alone; and pregnant and alone.

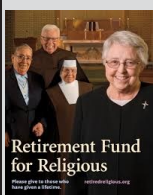


FOOD FOR ENCOUNTERING – Each Sunday, after encountering Jesus in his Word and shortly before encountering the Lord in Communion, we pray: “...grant that we who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son, may become one body, one spirit in Christ” (Eucharistic Prayer 3). As we go forth from Mass today, let us “go in peace to encounter the Lord in our neighbors.”

THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3, 2017
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT/FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR OF GRACE 2018

SUNDAY
First Sunday of Advent

7:30 AM Mass in Chapel
 9:30 AM Mass in Chapel
 9:30 AM Spanish Mass in Church
 11:30 AM Mass in Chapel
 6:00 PM Mass in Chapel



Special Collection - This weekend we join the other Catholics of our nation in the annual collection to support the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. May the generosity of the religious teachers who have served and continue to serve the Church spark our generosity in return. For more details see www.retiredreligious.org.

9:30 AM - Children's Liturgy (602)
 9:30 AM - Sunday School (Pre-School)
 10:35 AM - PREP K-6 (School)
 12:00 PM - Vietnamese Mass (Church) and Social (Church Hall)
 7:15 PM - Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups (Church Hall)

MONDAY
St. John of Damascus

8:00 AM Mass in Church

7:00 PM - Women at the Well (Parish Office)
 7:30 PM - Legion of Mary (Church Hall)



7:00 - 9:30 PM
Advent by Candlelight
Griffin Hall

TUESDAY

8:00 AM Mass in Church

8:30 AM - Confessions (Church)
 6:20 PM - PREP K-6 (Church, School)
 7:00 PM - Bible Study (Church Hall)
 7:30 PM - RCIA (Parish Office)

WEDNESDAY
St. Nicholas

8:00 AM Mass in Church

8:30 AM - 7:00 PM - Eucharistic Adoration (Church)
 9:00 AM & 7:00 PM - HFS Christmas Show (Chapel)
 9:00 AM - Advent Day of Prayer at St. Raphaela Center
 7:00 PM - Charismatic Prayer Group (Church Hall)
 7:30 PM - ESL Classes (Church Hall)
 7:30 PM - Catholic Young Adults Holy Hour at St. Agnes, 233 Gay St., West Chester, PA



Much Obligated - This week we will celebrate the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception of Mary**, a holy day of obligation, with two opportunities to participate in Mass in **Chapel** on: Thursday at **6:30 PM** and Friday at **9:00 AM**.

THURSDAY
St. Ambrose

8:00 AM Mass in Church

6:30 PM - Vigil Mass for Immaculate Conception in Chapel

7:00 PM - ESL Classes (Church Hall)
 7:30 PM - Adult Choir (Chapel)

FRIDAY

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Holy Day of Obligation

9:00 AM Mass in Chapel

SATURDAY
St. Juan Diego

7:00 AM - Men's Bible Study (Church Hall)

First Penance - We will gather in **St. Ann Church** this **Saturday at Noon** for the third of four celebrations of First Penance. Please keep our children in prayer as they encounter Jesus for the first time in this wonderful Sacrament of Mercy. See Page 4 of bulletin for names.

3:45 PM - Confessions (Sacred Heart Church)

Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent
 5:00 PM Mass in Sacred Heart Church

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

Sun: Is 63:16b-17,19b;64:2-7/1 Cor 1:3-9/
Mk 13:33-37
Mon: Is 2:1-5/Mt 8:5-11
Tues: Is 11:1-10/Lk 10:21-24
Wed: Is 25:6-10a/Mt 15:29-37
Thu: Is 26:1-6/Mt 7:21,24-27
Fri: Gn 3:9-15,20/Eph 1:3-6,11-12/Lk 1:26-38
Sat: Is 30:19-21,23-26/Mt 9:35-10:1,5a,6-8
Next
Sun: Is 40:1-5,9-11/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



**Table Fellowship for the
WEEK OF DECEMBER 3**
St. Peter's Church,
121 Church St.

Lunch - Monday - Friday
Noon to 1:00 PM

Monday (December 4)
Dinner 5:00 - 6:00 PM Pantry 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR
DECEMBER 2017**

Universal Intention: The Elderly. That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



GIVING TREE – Please help the retired IHM Sisters living in Camilla Hall by donating personal care items, note cards and stamps, and/or gift cards. If you are able, please take a gift tag from the Giving Tree in Chapel and Sacred Heart this weekend and return your wrapped gift to Sacred Heart before the Vigil on December 16 and to Chapel by 11:30 AM Sunday, December 17.

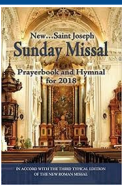


HELP NEEDED - We will need additional people to serve as **MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY** for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will have experienced Ministers of Hospitality at each service to direct any extra one-time helpers. If you are able to help, please put your name and phone number on one of the sheets in the lobby of Chapel or near the St. Joseph statue, in Church or in Sacred Heart Church.

*Holiday
Wishlist*

Wish Lists for a number of local human service agencies: Mom's House, St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter, Good Samaritan Shelter, PACS, The Clinic, The House, A Baby's Breath and Ann's Heart (Code Blue Ministry) will be posted on the bulletin boards in our worship sites and on our website. **Lists are available in our Worship Sites.**

"LITTLE BLUE BOOK" – a devotional guide for each day of Advent, will be available on our shelves at all Masses this weekend.



SUNDAY MISSALS – Small paperback Missals for personal use for the 2018 Church Year are available for purchase at \$3.00 in the Parish Office.

"WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?" – During Advent and Christmas Season all funds received via our **Parish Poor Boxes** will be designated for the **Code Blue Ministry** here in Phoenixville. If you go to www.annsheart.org/codeblue you will find more information about volunteering and/or making a donation online.



FORMED is loaded with religious material for people of all ages. Log onto www.FORMED.org and enter our Parish Code: W2HQ93.

Announcement for December 2/3

This Advent, gather as a family to "keep Christ in Christmas." Start with these two suggestions ... but check out all the various Advent/Christmas selections on FORMED and watch/listen to one each week.



O Holy Night
In Watch: Youth/Brother Francis

**In Study: Current Topics/
Augustine Institute Originals**



**First Penance – Please pray for the following children who will be making their
First Penance on Saturday, December 9**

Charlie Campbell
Anna Davidson
Brianna Guerra
Madelyn Hartwell
Charles Hettinger
Nora Khazen

Ryhs Lennon
Ahtziri Mejia-Ahumada
Isaura Mejia-Ahumada
Carla Moyer
Tess Packard



Benjamin Sobjak
Helena Solano
Brady Tharp
Ivana Ventura-Gobeia
Javier Zamora

UPCOMING EVENTS

KNIGHTS CRAB CAKE SALE

Representatives of the Knights will have order forms at the end of all Masses this weekend. Orders may be placed with the same Knight next week, December 9 & 10 after Masses. Pick up is scheduled for Thursday, December 14 between 4:00 - 6:00 PM in St. Ann Church Hall. For further information, contact Mike Paster at 610-933-6126.



**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
DECEMBER 10
BAKE SALE
VISIT WITH SANTA
AND FAIR TRADE SALE**



The Women's Guild will host their annual Bake Sale & visit with Santa on Sunday, December 10 from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM in 602 S. Main Street (the white house next to the Chapel). **Donations of baked goods are most welcome.** Thank you for your support!



Also in 602 St. Ann Parish will host a Fair Trade/Serrv sale. Beautiful handmade scarves, baskets, jewelry, coffee and chocolate, which were made by artisans and farmers around the world, will be available for purchase. For every purchase you make, Fair Trade/Serrv will donate a percentage of the sale to CRS Fair Trade Fund, which supports artisans and farmers overseas. Go to serrv.org for more information.



WE DARE TO SAY "OUR"

While Our Lady of Guadalupe is certainly the patron of Mexico, Pope St. John Paul II and his successors have referred to Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Patron Saint of **America**—that is of **all the Americas** (North, Central, South and also the Caribbean). Our parish will be celebrating our hemispheric Patron Saint with a Mass in Sacred Heart Church next Sunday at 9:30 AM followed by a celebration of music, dance and food in Sacred Heart cafeteria.

On Tuesday December 12 (the actual feast date of OLG), starting at 6:00 PM we will gather in St. Ann Church. At 6:30 PM, accompanied by a police escort, we will process to Sacred Heart Church where Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 PM. Light refreshments will follow in Sacred Heart cafeteria.



ST. CHARLES BORROME SEMINARY - The annual Open House and Christmas Concert will take place on December 10. Tours will begin at 1:00 PM and our Christmas Concert will take place in the St. Martin of Tours Chapel at 4:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public.

The seminary is also very pleased to announce that, as part of the Cardinal Foley Lecture Series, they will be hosting Bishop Robert Barron on January 29 at 7:00 PM! Bishop Robert Barron will be presenting "On the Church and Social Communications."

NEED A RIDE - HOPE volunteers drive people in need to appointments or on essential errands, Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Schedule a ride 4 days in advance. If you call on a Friday the ride will not be scheduled until Tues. or Wed.

December 1 - 15: Pat Solomon at 610-933-8693
December 16 - 31: MaryAnn Fennell at 610-933-1058

Necesita un "RIDE" - Nuestro Ministerio HOPE tiene voluntarios disponibles para llevarlo a citas esenciales de lunes a viernes, de 7 AM a 4 PM. Para coordinar esta actividad por favor llame a Rosa Padilla al 484-302-6056 con 4 días de anticipación. Si llama un viernes el viaje no será programado hasta el martes o miércoles.



AID FOR FRIENDS
FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE HOMEBOUND


If you can assist by creating single-serving meals with leftovers for the homebound in our community, you can **pick up empty trays and supplies and meals can be dropped off at 602 S. Main St.**

Sunday 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM and 5:30 - 7:00 PM

For more information call Kate at 610-933-3814 or katecommiskey@msn.com.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Alicia Andrews, Gene Bernat, Chad Berish, Beth Booth, Carolyn Boring, Ashley Rose Bukay, Ed Cain, Eleanor and John Calvecchio, Leroy Campbell, Dave Cocci, Angeline Costello, John Daly, Al DeMola, Michael DiArcangelo, Lida Dickinson, Lucille Dickson, Loan Doan, Tom Fedick, Dan Fennell, Daniel Flores, Sally Freed, Ryan Gerhold, Joe Gibson, Gordon Gladden, Jennifer Pacifico Golaszewski, Christine Greger, Jim Havrilla, Jean Hoffman, Angela Hogan, Ann Hovanec, Michael Hudak, Jeanette Jelus, Ann Johnson, Maren Kaniewski, Irene King, Larry Kirk, Jack Klenk, Patrick Koch, Irene Layden, Denise Long, Ray Long, Claire Maestrale, Steve & Joanne Mardi, Marie Marosek, Thomas Mastrangelo, Heather McCann, John McKenzie, Michele Mellon, Ron Motzer, Tom Moyer, Karen Nesspor, Jacob Nichols, Georgene O'Donnell, Marcelo Opiela, Steve Pannella, Cindy Patton, Joan Pendergast, Glen Philips, Abigail Pilcicki, Dianne Litishin Ponzio, Ann Racey, Christine Radoiss, Katherine Raggazino, Jerry Ratchford, John Riegel, Kris Roberts, Kathryn Rocky, Pat Scott, Ken Shackleton, Keith Sheridan, Patrick Sheridan, Eustachia Shtohryn, Margaret Sim, James Smith, Renee Smith, Jennifer Spencer, Evelyn Spitz, Christine Kulp Springer, Bob Stancavage, Marc Stevenson, Sherri Stover, Julie Szewczak, Ethel Thomas, Glenn Thomas, Don Troncelliti, Helen Twargoski, Doris Valerio, Jeff Vance, Joe Vargo, Paul G. Weaver, Charles Wertz, Ann Wolff, Talan Wolstenholme, our homebound, parishioners in Nursing Homes, Hospitals & all serving in the Armed Forces.



Want to save some time and money while helping St Ann Parish in the process? Consider using Direct Deposit for your weekly Sunday donation. St Ann's offers a Direct Debit program whereby your total monthly (Sunday) contribution is automatically deducted from your designated account on the 15th of each month. There is no fee to use this service. Sign up forms may be found on our chapel shelves or call the parish office for more info.


If you use the monthly direct debit program and you are uncomfortable as the collection basket passes you, feel free to place an empty envelope marked 'direct debit' into the basket.

Also, you may contact your Bank or Credit Union to use the Bill Payer service they offer. Many financial institutions offer this service for free.

No more writing checks!

Year End Giving

You might want to donate appreciated stock or mutual fund shares. Such gifts may qualify for a Federal Income Tax Deduction, and you also may avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation. If you want to make the gift of appreciated securities to the parish, please contact the Office for Investment Services at 215-587-3969. Please note that **parishes will receive the full sale price of donated securities** processed through the Archdiocesan brokerage account.



	11/26/17 22nd Sunday in Fiscal Year	Sunday Donations Fiscal Year to Date 7/1/17 - 11/26/17
Budget:	\$15,900	\$346,200
Offering:		
Envelopes	\$12,445	\$236,438
Loose	1,199	21,673
Online Giving	1,946	38,697
Mail	197	30,961
Total	\$15,787	\$327,769
Shortage	-\$113	-\$18,431
Thanksgiving collection for St Mary's Shelter \$752		
Thank you for your generosity!		