Parish Staff

Administrator
Reverend Milton E. Jordan ~ x 203

Administrative Assistant
Ms. Mary Young ~ x 201

Business Manager
Ms. Leslie O’Leary ~ x 202

Director of Faith Formation
Ms. Catherine Tolnay ~ x 205
Adult & Youth Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation

Director of Music Ministry
Ms. Regina Loffredo 301-464-9193

Organist
Ms. Deborah Kijak-Hess

Maintenance Supervisor
Mr. Hector Perez

School Office Staff

Telephone: 301-577-9412

Principal
Mrs. Abigail Greer ~ x 214

Director of Development and Admissions
Mrs. Vivian O. Richards ~ x 215

Administrative Assistant
Ms. Marsha Blackburn ~ x 212

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00, 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM

Daily Mass Schedule
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM

Monday Devotion
Adoration and Blessed Sacrament: 6:00 to 8:00 PM
Confessions: 7:00 to 8:00 PM
Benediction: 8:00 PM

Holy Days of Obligation
*Masses at: 7:30 AM, 12 Noon and 7:30 PM
*Unless otherwise announced

Sacrament of Baptism
Parents must be registered at least six months, practicing and attend a mandatory preparation seminar, which may be completed prior to the child’s birth. Please contact the Office of Faith Formation for information and registration.

Sacrament of Marriage
Registered, practicing parishioners must contact a parish priest at least six months in advance of the wedding.

New Parishioners
Welcome! Please fill out a parish census form in the church vestibule or contact the rectory. All parishioners must be registered and practicing in order for us to serve you by issuing a Letter of Good Standing for sponsorship at the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, or Matrimony.

Moving?
Please notify us as soon as possible if you are moving or have had a change of address in order for us to update our records.
Am I Too Defended for Advent?

All of these traumas and states of inner disturbances and defenses can make entering into Advent very, very difficult.

So what do we do if we find ourselves identifying with this defensiveness in any way? Is there hope? There is always hope! This is a season designed by our God to offer hope. Images from Isaiah, the prophet, offer hope to a people in the darkness and gloom of political captivity in Babylon. It is all language that offers us hope to believe that the coming of Jesus into our world is all about our personal liberation from whatever captivity we are in, whatever darkness or discouragement envelops us.

If we can read this prophetic announcement with an open enough heart to hear it as addressed to our personal situation, then Advent has begun in us. It is simple. It involves imagining that God can do this. We don’t need to know how, to rationally figure it out, to begin to have evidence, or figure out how those who hurt us will pay for what they did. All we have to do is listen to how “good news” sounds in our ears. If a tiny bit of our hearts longs for this to be true, if even one image here or one phrase stirs something in us, then we are letting our defenses down enough to let the Holy Spirit in. And, God’s Spirit can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. If we can put down our guard enough to imagine that this season - these four weeks - could help us know God’s love for us more deeply, could help us hear about the first coming of our Lord into this world, so that we can be opened to accept his coming into our hearts these days, then grace has entered in beyond the defenses and Advent has begun in us. Read these words slowly. If possible, begin by praying a simple prayer: “Come, Lord Jesus, Come and touch my heart. Come and be with me during Advent. Let your Word make me defense-less before your love.”

Taken from Praying Advent, on Creighton University’s Online Ministries website: http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html. Used with permission.

Celebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of December 13th/14th

5:00 pm  Father Stan
8:00 am   Father Stan
10:30 am  Father Milt
6:00 pm   Father Milt

A Great Holiday Stocking Stuffer
The Academy Annual Lottery

Parishioners are encouraged to pick up a form from the pamphlet rack in the back of the church. A raffle ticket can also be purchased at the school or Hughes Center between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm or contact Vivian Richards at 301-577-9412 x215.

Stewardship Report: Revenue

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Total Offertory</th>
<th>Faith Direct</th>
<th>Number of Adult Envelopes</th>
<th>Number of Children’s Envelopes</th>
<th>Number of Faith Direct Donors</th>
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<td>8,124.00</td>
<td>2,591.60</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>805</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Building and Maintenance Fund: Our second collection this weekend is for our regular Building and Maintenance Fund. As always, we thank you for continuing generosity.

Retirement Fund for Religious: Our second collection next weekend is for the continuing care of our elderly religious. Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Please give generously to next week’s collection.

Advent Spiritual Reading Materials: We continually provide materials to enhance spiritual devotion and practice among our parishioners. The following are currently available:

- Advent Magnificat: Pocket-sized booklets for daily habit of reflective prayer. (Cost: $2.00)
- Missal: Saint Joseph Sunday Missal Prayer Book and Hymnal for 2015 (Cost: $4.00)
- Word Among Us: Provides daily meditation for Advent 2014. (Cost: $4.00)

Online Advent Help: Are you looking for help with Advent? Help is available on the “Praying Advent” website provided by Creighton University, a Jesuit Catholic University. This online resource can address some of your questions. Try just one “Daily Prayer” for Advent. Visit: www.onlineministries.creighton.edu CollaborativeMinistry/online.html.

Faith Direct: In this season of Advent, we are continuously preparing ourselves for the celebration of Christ’s birth into this world. Please help our own parish prepare for the coming new year by signing up with Faith Direct? You can sign up online at www.faithdirect.net using our church code: MD41, or by mailing a paper enrollment form available in the pamphlet rack or the Hughes Center.

Dear God,

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have three stitches and a shot.

Sam
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Holy Day of Obligation: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

On Monday, December 8th, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a holy day of obligation. Masses will be held at 7:30 am, 12:00 pm, and 7:30 pm. Adoration and Benediction are cancelled in observance of this feast day. Confessions will be at 6:15 pm.

**Items of Note**

**Return of Christmas Wreath:** A gentle reminder for parishioners who have taken a Christmas wreath to decorate for the church. Please return the wreath to the usher’s closet in the back of church as soon as possible.

**Reflection on the Saints:** Father Jordan will be offering a talk for Advent on the “Reflection of the Saints” on Tuesday, December 9th and 16th in the Hughes Center at 9:15 am. All are welcome.

**Training for Altar Servers:** Training for altar servers (grades 4th through adult) will begin soon. If interested, please call or email your name and contact information to Cynthia Faust at cfaust@atelierarchitects.com or 301-464-1799. An orientation meeting will be scheduled for early January.

**All Night Advent Vigil:** The Saint Matthias Prayer Group will hold an All Night Vigil of Prayer and Worship on Friday, December 12th at 11:00 pm. The vigil will be held in the church and all are welcome. The vigil will be followed by a healing Mass at 4:30 am. For more information, call Emmanuel Amanyiwe at 301-351-0770 or 240-486-0733.

**Christmas Giving Tree:** The Ladies of Charity Christmas Giving Tree is in the front of the church near the nativity. It is decorated with ornaments bearing the name of an organization and a requested gift. Please take an ornament and return it along with the unwrapped gift requested to the church or Hughes Center by Tuesday, December 16th. Thank you for making the season special for those in need.

**Mary Kay Holiday Fundraiser:** Bulletin Patron and Parishioner, Pamela DeFreitas, is sponsoring a Mary Kay Holiday Fundraiser. A donation of 50% of holiday profits will be made to the parish. Parishioners can purchase cosmetics from www.marykay.com/pam577 or call 301-312-0875 for more information. Please support our patron!

**Chesapeake Chorale Holiday Concert:** On Sunday, December 7th Chesapeake Chorale will present its holiday concert featuring Poulenc’s “Gloria”. Tickets are: $15 for Adults; $12 for Seniors and Military; and Students and Children are free. The concert begins at 7:00 pm at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 1800 Seton Drive, Crofton. For more information, call 410-721-5422 or visit www.chesapeakechorale.org.

**Mass Intentions**

**Second Week of Advent**

**Monday, December 8:**
- **The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary (A Holy Day of Obligation)**
- 7:30 am Betty Igebu (Living - Birthday)
- 12:00 pm Mary Densmore (Living)
- 7:30 pm Grace Abbate

**Tuesday, Dec. 9:**
- Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
- 8:30 am Father Michael Blackwell

**Wednesday, December 10:**
- 8:30 am Emmanuel Amanyiwe (Living)

**Thursday, December 11:**
- Saint Damasus I, Pope
- 8:30 am Father William Hines

**Friday, December 12:**
- Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 8:30 am The Paredes/Mandap Family

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday, December 13:**
- Saint Lucy, Virgin Vigil - 5:00pm Bryan Payne

**Sunday, December 14:**
- 8:00 am Jeanette West (Living)
- 10:30 am Rebecca Udjoefor
- 6:00 pm Father Richard Schmidt, S.J.

**Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:** Tina Armero; Margie Baker; Euphemia Bild; Melvin and Elaine Brooks; Muriel Brown; Yvonne Brown; Shawn Brown; Charles Butler; Taylor Byrd; Irene Chisholm; Edith Ejohn; Alfredo Felix; Joan George; Emma Graham; Francis Greenfield; Dorothy Johnson; Charles Jones; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Joe Makowski; Carole New; Molly Onwukwu; Irene Pezzuti; William Pinchback; Al Porazzo; Marion Prout; June Provin; Delores Richardson; Nicole Riley; Pablo Rocha; Joseph Rubbo; Ben Self; Angela Thompson; Lucille Stare; Kay Villani; Sam and Jean Zanin; and Eugene Zehner; may God’s healing grace be theirs. For our military serving overseas: Ryan Morgan; protect them from all harm.

**Christmas Dinner for those In Need:**
If you know of someone who cannot get out and would like a Christmas dinner delivered to them on Christmas Day, contact the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at 202-526-8300 by Friday, December 12th.

**PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FIRE LANE!**
Notice from Saint Matthias Apostolic Church, Lanham www.stmatthias.org

PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN FIRE AND EMERGENCY LANES!
For the safety of all parishioners, all drivers must adhere to Maryland State Highway Administration parking rules and regulations. Ample parking is available at the rear of the church. Illegal parking will be subject to a FINE and/or TOWING!