

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

December 11 St. Damasus I
 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
 13 St. Lucy
 14 St. John of the Cross
 15 St. Mary di Rosa
 16 St. Haggai the Prophet
 17 St. John of Matha

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 10
5:00 PM Members of the Parish
 Sunday, December 11
8:30 AM †Peter Colo (Marlene Wood)
11:00 AM †Frank Wachter (Rosemarie Calzadilla)
 Monday, December 12
NOON For Unborn Children and their Mothers
 (Lisa Schneider)
 Saturday, December 17
5:00 PM Members of the Parish
 Sunday, December 18
8:30 AM †Peter Colo (Kay Colo)
11:00 AM †Ronald Richard Nowicki (Rob Nowicki)

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

First Reading
Isaiah 7:10-14
 Ahaz proclaims the sign that the Lord will give: a virgin shall give birth to a son, Emmanuel.
Responsorial Psalm
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
 The Lord is the King of Glory who established the earth.
Second Reading
Romans 1:1-7
 Paul greets the community at Rome and declares himself a servant of Christ Jesus.
Gospel Reading
Matthew 1:18-24
 An angel appears to Joseph, directing him to take Mary as his wife and telling him that the child she will bear will be called Emmanuel.

WELCOME OUR NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS!
 Gina and John Condi
 Howard Mitchell, III
 The Kristina and Brian Shonat Family

PARISHIONER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
12/23 Regina and Stephen Grammatico (1972)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (12/10)
8 AM: MASS
9 AM: Cursillo
3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
5 PM: Vigil MASS (**Haiti Craft and Coffee Sale**)
SUNDAY (12/11) THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Altar Flowers Provided in Memory of the Parents of Peter and Ginnie Gillen)
7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: Children's MASS (**Haiti Craft and Coffee Sale**)
9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Christian Formation (*Lower Level*)
9:45-10:45 AM: First Sacraments Parents Meeting (*Chapel*)
11:00 AM: MASS (**Haiti Craft and Coffee Sale**)
12:15 PM: Baptism (*Linh Vu*)
1:30 PM: Latin MASS
MONDAY (12/12)
10:30 AM: Divine Will Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
NOON: MASS
5:30-7:30 PM: Mira Rehearsal
TUESDAY (12/13)
10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS
WEDNESDAY (12/14)
10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
6:15 PM Medjugorje Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
7 PM: Choir Rehearsal (*Church*)
THURSDAY (12/15)
7 AM: MASS
NOON: Soup Kitchen
FRIDAY (12/16)
8 AM: MASS
10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
4-6 PM: Advent Retreat Adoration and Benediction
7:30 PM: Mira Concert (*Church*)
SATURDAY (12/17)
8 AM: MASS (*followed By The Rosary*)
9 AM-4:30 PM: Advent Retreat (*see schedule within*)
5 PM: Vigil MASS
SUNDAY (12/18) FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)
7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: MASS (*followed by The Chaplet of Divine Mercy*)
9:30 AM: Children's Choir Rehearsal
11:00 AM: MASS (*Unveiling The Gift of Divine Mercy for the Parish, followed by The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy and Close The Jubilee Year of Mercy*)
NOON: Children's Choir Rehearsal

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory December 3-4, 2016 (Plate)		\$5,746
Outreach	\$925	
Flower Donations	490	
Justice and Peace	254	
Weekly Offertory Budget		\$7,173
Offertory Received		<u>5,746</u>
Deficit		(\$1,427)

PARISH NEWS

ADVENT RETREAT AND THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR OF MERCY SCHEDULE 12/16-12/18

The privileges for the Jubilee of Mercy may change But GOD'S MERCY IS NOT LIMITED

Friday December 16

4-6 PM: Adoration and Benediction.

Saturday December 17

8 AM: MASS Followed by The Rosary.

9.00AM: Confessions

10 AM-NOON: Leader, Fr. Brian Capuano, St. Joseph Parish, Petersburg

1-4 PM: Adoration and Confessions

5 PM: MASS.

Sunday, December 18

8:30AM: MASS followed by The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy.

11 AM: MASS and Unveiling The Gift of Divine Mercy for the Parish, followed by The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy and Close.

BEST ADVENT EVER

"Wrap Presents and Be Present."

Rediscover Christmas, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic, will help you slow down and focus on what really matters during the busy season. Sign up at BestAdventEver.com. Flyers are available in the Commons with more details.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COATS FOR CHRISTMAS

Council 3670 will be distributing coats for Christmas to children in-need from our community. Each coat costs \$20. If you would like to contribute to this effort, Knights will be accepting donations the weekend of December 17th & 18th.

SACRISTANS NEEDED

Help is needed to maintain our sacred space. There is an urgent need for someone who can assist in maintaining and ironing altar cloths. Please contact the office or Suzanne Bailey (slank@ntelos.net; 296-5033) for details.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please call the parish office at 295-7185, to arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Fr. Joseph Mary.

THE ILL & HOME BOUND:

Parishioners: Shawn Simpson-Smith, Mary Fusco, Eileen Foster, Jack Valloric, Tam Nguyen, Rachel Witt, Jack Andrews, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Ron Lavis, Sue Newman, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Hermann Ortmann, Katherine Russo, Charley and Kitty Moore.

Friends and Relatives: Ron Lavis, James Worley, Carolyn Ann Davis, Blandine Attey, Andy Gillespie, Michael James McNeil, JoAnn Fox Klein, George Lilly, The Campbell Family, Fred Crane, Bill Eddy, Susan Steeby, Lisa Marshall, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, George William Polhill, II, Claudia Hartland, Betsy Boyce, Michael Norton, Leslie Gilliam, Jane Sargent, Josephine Nampijja, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Charlie Previtali, Nicole Shaw, Jean Clayton, Rich Hawkins, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, Kristin Fagan, June Atherton, Natalie Potter, Harper Grace, J. Sloan, Paul Hillard, Dale Evans, Marie Johnston, Suzanne Lank, Diane Schmidt, Earl Scheetz, Shirley O'Rourke, Xavier Van Bastelaer, Mary Griffin, Makala Thomas, Sibylle Llewellyn, Duncan Nixon, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Elaine Roberti, Benedict Pax, Jerry Colgate, Timothy Lee Smith, Ned Foss & Jennifer Rinehart, Janet Dunham, Fr. Michael Hann, Fr. Joseph Torretto, Mike Charlie, Joel Rivera, Pam Heron, Elizabeth Scott, Kwasi Johnson, Marianne Rossner, Angie Lee, Residents of Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention, In memory of James Brazell.

Members of the Military: Tom Logan, William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, David Alvey, Brian Fagan, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Saturday

2:30 PM Children's MASS

5 PM MASS with Choir (Carols begin at 4:30 PM)

7 PM MASS

Christmas Day, Sunday

8:30 AM MASS

11:00 AM MASS

MEDJUGORJE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Please join us this Advent season in preparation for the birth of our Savior. We pray the rosary every Wednesday in the Chapel at 6:15 pm. Please add your prayer requests to our intention book outside of the Chapel. All are welcomed!

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA (IN THE COMMONS)

God Made Man

In this Christmas themed presentation, Fr. Shannon Collins sheds new light on the biblical narratives of the birth of Jesus Christ, as well as the beautiful Christmas traditions of the Church.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL FORMATION

The next meeting of our High School Youth ministry will be THIS Sunday, December 11 from 4:00-5:30 in the Bernard Moore room. We will take a look at Salvation History and God’s plan accomplished through His Son – a perfect theme for Advent! We’ll also enjoy a special Christmas social. Please join us. If you haven’t attended before, don’t let that stop you! All high school students are welcome.

FIRST SACRAMENTS

An orientation for all parents whose children are preparing for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be held **THIS Sunday, December 11, at 9:45** in the chapel. Please mark your calendar and plan ahead, as it is important be present for this event. Registration forms for First Sacraments may be downloaded from the website. If your child was baptized outside of Holy Comforter Parish, a Baptism certificate must be included with the registration fee.

CONFIRMATION 2016-2017: The next Confirmation preparation class will take place on **Sunday, December 18** following the 11:00 Mass. Registration is still open to all students who are at least 15 years of age and in the 10th grade. Registration forms are available in the Commons and on the website.

Christmas Nativity Play: Children of the parish are invited to participate in the reenactment of the Nativity Story according to the Gospel of Luke during the Christmas Eve Family Mass at 2:30 PM. Please use the Sign-Up Genius to indicate roles that your child(ren) might like to play. There will be a PRACTICE for the play on **Saturday, Dec. 17 at 4:00 PM**. Please contact Sue Dougherty at cre@holycomforterparish.org for more information.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES

OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

During the month of November our Food Pantry provided bags of food and hygiene items to 300 households, and the Soup Kitchen provided 531 meals. St. Thomas Aquinas Church donated 914 pounds of food to the Food Pantry and continued to donate sandwiches to the Soup Kitchen. On Friday, November 25, the Angel Tree was placed in the Commons, and by Monday, December 5, all of the Angel Tree tags were claimed. Please note: there is no longer a need for empty egg cartons. Thank you for your support!

HAITI

Meet Father Petina, pastor of St. Michel, at the Haiti Committee event December 17 after the 5:15 mass at St. Thomas. Reservations are needed for the dinner and talk. Contact Anne Knasel at e-mail below or 540-456-8899.

Hand-crafted Gifts from Haiti, Sketches of Saltadere Note Cards, and Donation Cards of new design for **Christmas**, birthdays and all occasions, are for sale in the Commons after Masses this weekend. **Singing Rooster Fair trade coffee** from Haiti is also for sale. Haitian-made crafts, cards, or a bag of coffee make great holiday gifts.

Bi-Parish Haiti Committee: December meeting will be with Father Petina and will include making plans with him for future support we may be able to provide to our twin parish. **All are welcome.**

Contact: e-mail Anne Knasel at anne@stagebridge.net or Ginny Zeller at ginnyanzeller@gmail.com. Website: www.saltadere.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Rehearsals will be held on Sunday, December 18th after the 8:30 AM and 11 AM Masses to prepare for the Children’s Mass on Christmas Eve. For more information please contact Daniel Kirkland, music@holycomforterparish.org

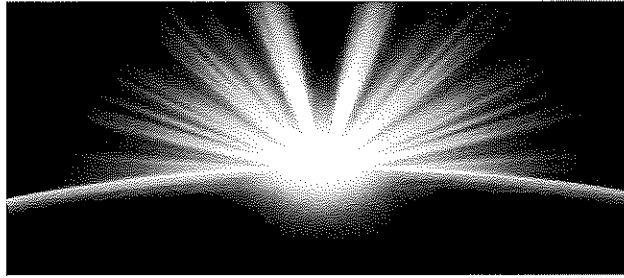
COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENING OF MUSIC AT CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION

The Church of the Incarnation Festival Choir presents An Evening of Music for Advent and Christmas on Friday December 16 at 7 PM in the Worship Center. A reception will follow the concert in the Parish Hall.

EDITORS NOTE: *Due to technical difficulties, some news may not have been included in this week’s Parish Bulletin. We apologize for any omissions.*

FROM THE PASTOR
TIME TO IGNITE THE LIGHT WITHIN
ADVENT 2016 #3



"He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30)

While John was at the peak of his career, Jesus appeared on the scene and the crowds, who had once streamed out of the villages to follow John, began to follow Jesus instead. As John watched them go, his only response was, **"He must increase, I must decrease"**. John's response to the reputation of Christ need to be our uttermost desire and work to let **"Christ the light"** increase every day in us. We are called to spiritual maturity, having Christ increase in us and through us while having "self" decrease as we walk with God. This is a *"must"* if we want something greater than a weak faith or an immature relationship with God. When Jesus becomes greater in my world and I become lesser in my worldly desires and aspirations my joy increases. And when Jesus' plan and purpose becomes my plan and purpose, how can I fail to be satisfied and happy.

God has called me to ignite that flame, that fire, to spark something within me today, that something being the power of the Holy Spirit that will help me to reach out and lay hold of the prize of the victor. Prophet Isaiah said, **"For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. (62:1).** When Isaiah said he could not keep quiet; there was a fire that burned from within. He was going to keep telling people about God until righteousness shines out, until salvation became a blazing torch in the land. It has been said "evil triumphs when good people remain silent." It is time to stir the fire within. We can no longer be silent. We must become agents of change, a change that begins with me by repentance and conversion. We must join hands with Isaiah and other men and women of the past, linked by our common bond in God, and in unison say, **"It is time for the power and the glory of our God to come and bring His glory known in our day!"** During the sixties and seventies there was a term **"Jesus Freaks"** used as a derogatory for those involved in the Jesus movement and there is a book by DC Talk, with some stories of those who were taken up by Jesus' spirit and lived very differently. There was something within these people that was making them react differently to what the world was offering them, can we go that far? A wise man once told me; **what really matters is what happens in us, not to us.**

So how do we light the fire within? We do it with the flame of...Passion for Christ. People have categorized our time in history as being a time without passion. Could they be right? Bombarded by a multi-media experience of life, we are not passionless, but I could say we have been overloaded. But the fire within burns for the intimacy of relationship with God. To light the fire within, we need to have Passion for God. **"Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God"** And St. Augustine said: **"You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you."** *(To be continued---*)

ADVENT SNAPSHOT 3rd. SUNDAY.

- IT IS GAUDETE SUNDAY- REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS.
- TRUE THE LORD LIBERATES US FROM THE SLAVERY OF SIN.
- BE OPEN TO TRANSFORMATION.
- THEN GO AND SHARE WITH OTHERS WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU.