

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2017



MARANATHA is an ancient Aramaic expression favored by Judeo-Christian biblical authors to proclaim the belief that Jesus Christ has truly entered our world with the gift of salvation and who will come again in awesome glory to hand all creation over to the Father – renewed and restored in its original intent and wonder. It is an expression that still echoes in some of the hymns and poems that celebrate the Advent season – the season when the Church observes the four-week period of preparation for the Christmas Festival. Metaphorically, the expression highlights each week of Advent as a living representation of the epochs of time when the prophets foretold the coming of the Messiah and its subsequent eras since the earthly life of Christ as humankind awaits that second appearance of Christ. MARANATHA, simply stated, means “Come, Lord Jesus.”

The Liturgy of the Church turns royal purple with the onset of Advent. We look to the coming of the Lord as the royal Prince of Peace, the King of Kings, our Mighty God and Everlasting Savior, and we do so with the same anticipation and hope as did the peoples whose lives, visions, and aspirations we will hear about once again as the Scriptures of the season are proclaimed. Our world needs the redeeming presence of the Lord as much today as it ever has needed Him.

As I passed a Target department store on the evening of Thanksgiving, I was reminded that I needed a few personal items that I could quickly purchase with a short rendezvous into the store. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed by the crowd of people lined up to get ahead of the holiday Black Friday frenzy, but the frenzy had already begun! It was a panorama of shopping glee and high expectation! MARANATHA, COME, HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND BUYING! The store was cordoned off into a maze of cart and basket cattle-shoots. Security guards were stationed outside and inside the store next to real-life receipt checkers, floor traffic engineers, and sales clerks. Store managers with walky-talkies, flashlights, and customer counter devices were all over the place shouting out orders. Consumers, fresh from Thanksgiving Day banquet tables, were intense on keeping to-be-paid-for items intact in the newly designed holiday shopping carts as they were instructed by floor clerks to the most convenient checkout register. It was mass shopping at its best! It took me two hours to buy three small items. It all made me ask the simple, but oh so important Advent question: What is it that we really need in our day? We have so much to choose from and we have the means to possess it all. But what do we *really* need? MARANATHA - COME, LORD JESUS! A blessed Advent to all. Take time to savor the best question of all – What do we really need?

Fr. Nick

“We are not drawn to God by iron chains, but by sweet attractions and holy inspirations.”

St. Francis de Sales

We welcome the recently Baptized...

Madalena Rose Derp

Kyle Patrick Tier

Henry Kenneth Trexler

Monday,	12/4	MR. & MRS. JAMES JULIAN LYDIA SPARCO	FAMILY SERIO FAMILY
6:45 AM 8:00 AM			
Tuesday,	12/5	LEO & JOSEPHINE GRIMM FRANK SIANNI	FAMILY ESTATE WIFE
6:45 AM 8:00 AM			
Wednesday,	12/6	CHARLES FARINO TONY DI BRINO	BROTHER JOHN CARRIERI-RUSSO FAMILY
6:45 AM 8:00 AM			
Thursday,	12/7	MICHAEL ANDREOLI ATTILIO, ADELE & MARIO CAFINI VIGIL MASS	FAMILY CAFINI FAMILY
6:45 AM 8:00 AM 5:30 PM			
Friday,	12/8	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	
6:45 AM 8:00 AM		CATHERINE SERAFIN	WALTER & FAMILY
Saturday,	12/9	TOM SYGOWSKI	FRANCIS KELLEHER
6:45 AM 5:30 PM			
Sunday,	12/10	PARISHIONERS ARTURO TONELLOTTO ROSARIO FUSCO	TERESINA & ALDO FAMILY
7:00 AM 9:00 AM 11:00 AM			

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Next Sunday's Readings

1st Reading:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalms 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14

2nd Reading:

2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel:

Mark 1-1-8

“God’s Plan for Giving”

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 11/19/17

TOTAL OFFERTORY COLLECTION:	\$ 9,336.52
Budget:	\$11,361.51
Actual vs. Budget This Week:	-\$2,024.99
Percent Difference This Week:	- 17.8%
Total Difference Fiscal Year to Date:	-\$ 9,613.79

OFFERTORY COLLECTION FOR 11/26/17

TOTAL OFFERTORY COLLECTION:	\$ 9,050.80
Budget:	\$11,361.51
Actual vs. Budget This Week:	-\$2,310.71
Percent Difference This Week:	- 20.3%
Total Difference Fiscal Year to Date:	-\$11,924.50

Thank you for your sacrifice of tithing!

In your charity, please pray for
Dominick A. Bove
and all the deceased of St. Anthony's.

Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is Friday, December 8th. It is a Holyday of Obligation. St. Anthony's will offer a Vigil Mass at 5:30 PM, Thursday, December 7th. On Friday, Masses will be celebrated at 6:45 and 8:00 AM.

Your Prayers and Support Requested

Mateo Ahumada	Karen Berman	Marianne Calvarese
Roger Chao	Anita Dauphin	Mary T. DiBiao
Judi DiFrancesco	Thomas DiGuglielmo	Tommy DiVirgilio
Christopher Ganey	James Ganey	John Giorgi
Richard Jakotowicz	Bonita Della Rocca Jodz	Mark Johnson
Grace Marie Mataleno	Bill McNabb	Christine Rinaldi Murphy
William J. Nardo, Jr.	Patricia Ogonowski	Kelly Panella
Charles Rosenberg, Sr.	Nicky Rotundo	Lucretia Serio
Jimmy Silicato	Larry Silvestri	Judy Sullivan
Albert Vietri	Anmarie White	

...and all the sick of St. Anthony's Parish.

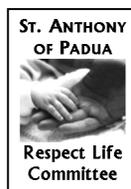
Annual Prayer List Reset

We have performed our annual cleanup of the above prayer list. This involved the removal of names that have been on the list since last year, less specific cases where we know the persons should still be included. Bear in mind that the prayer list is for people going through serious, critical life challenges, not lesser maladies. **If we removed someone who should still be included, please call the rectory at 421-3700, ext. 101.** They will be reinstated.

Can YOU Contribute to Our Christmas Food Baskets???

As we start to plan our 2017 Food Basket project—we ask—can you and your family help us add to the happiness and joy of the Christmas Season for families less fortunate than our own? Please support our efforts by donating food, making a monetary donation or volunteering to help prepare and deliver the food baskets to about 50 families in Northern Delaware. Here is what we need: Canned goods (listed below) can be purchased and placed in the last pew in the back of church each week between now and Sunday Dec 10th. Items needed include: Canned fruits/ vegetables/ soups/meats/sauces, cereals, pasta, rice, peanut butter, cake/brownie mix, and crackers. Any non-perishable healthy foods! Regarding fresh foods: Monetary donations are very welcome as they allow us to make all the baskets equal and include fresh foods. (Checks can be made payable to St. Anthony of Padua and placed in the collection baskets no later than Sunday, December 10th in an envelope marked "Christmas Food Basket"). We are also in need of volunteers to shop, sort and pack the food baskets as well as 4-5 teams of drivers to deliver the morning of Saturday, Dec. 16th. In this season of giving, celebrate your good fortune by adding one more act of generosity to those in need within our Catholic community. If you know of a family in need of help during the Christmas season: please send their name, address, and phone number to us, and we will make sure they receive a basket. To volunteer or for additional information, please contact Pete Giorgi [302-584-3773](tel:302-584-3773), or email Ellen Giorgi at emchceever@comcast.net.

Respect Life: Fact of Life



"Compassion for the mother is extremely important, but is never served through destroying the innocent."

Randy Alcorn, Pro Life Answers to Pro Choice Arguments

Second Collection

Next weekend, December 9th & 10th, there is no scheduled second collection.

Christmas Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is now up in church. Please select ornaments and return gifts under the tree with attached ornament. **Deadline for returning gifts is Tuesday, December 12th.** Contact Patty Roach or Chris Hostler at 421.3700, ext. 100, for more info or questions.



Sodality in Memoriam

The Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality remembers the following deceased Sodalists who passed away in 2017.

Bernice Ashe
Marlene Carucci
Norma Cofrancesco
Louise A. DiSabatino
Denise Cole Kowal
Gloria Moglioni
Josephine R. Panariello
Lydia Sparco

Music News

Our wonderful Christmas CD, THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS, is once again for sale during the month of December. CD's can be purchased in the vestibule through our gift shop. We have lowered the cost to \$12.00 per CD and 2 for \$20.00. They make wonderful stocking stuffers, gifts for coworkers or those who cannot make it to church. All proceeds go directly to the parish. The CD features Louis L. Perazza performing on our state-of-the-art Peragallo Pipe Organ.

Funds for Friends Fundraiser

Come out for food, fun and fundraising! Visit *The Greene Turtle* on S. Ridge Avenue in Middletown or S. Main Street in Newark on Monday, December 4 from 11 am to 11 pm to help the Old Bohemia Historical Society raise funds for the renovation and maintenance of St. Francis Xavier Shrine (Old Bohemia) in Warwick, MD. To request the flyer that must be presented to participate in the fundraiser, please call 302.545.2126 or email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com.

Parish Calendar

Tuesday & Wednesday

3:00 PM, Christmas Pageant
Practice

Thursday

5:30 PM, Vigil Mass
7:30 PM, Choir Rehearsal

Friday, Immaculate Conception

Masses at 6:45 & 8:00

Saturday

10:00 AM, Confirmation

Sunday

No PREP
12:30 PM, Knights of
Columbus Declamation
Contest (GS)

Monday, Dec. 4

through

Sunday, Dec. 10

*(All events listed in the
Parish Calendar are
in church unless
otherwise noted.)*

Grade School Calendar

Monday

8:00 AM, Advent Service

Tuesday

Secret Santa Shop
St. Anthony's Day at Grub
Burger & Barnes & Noble
(see ad this page)

Wednesday

Secret Santa Shop

Friday, Immaculate Conception

8:00 AM, School Mass

Museum of the Bible Bus Trip December 4, 2017

St. John the Baptist-Holy Angels Parish in Newark is sponsoring a bus trip to the brand new Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. The trip is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2017. The bus departs from Holy Family Church on Gender Road at 7:30am and returns at 6:30pm. Lunch is NOT provided. The cost of the trip is \$69.00 each. To reserve your space please call Phyllis Edwards at [302-731-8016](tel:302-731-8016) or the Holy Angels Parish Center on Possum Park Road at [302-731-2200](tel:302-731-2200). Seating will be limited so please reserve early.

Holiday Event at Barnes & Noble and Grub Burger

St. Anthony of Padua Grade School is holding a holiday event on Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at both Barnes and Noble on Concord Pike and Grub Burger located in Concord Mall. Our school will receive a portion of the proceeds. Come out and enjoy a delicious meal, buy some books and support our school. We hope to see you there!

The event at Grub Burger is all day. Flyers will be in the back of church. Please turn it in when you place your order. You can also mention St. Anthony's School when you order if you do not have a flyer.

The event at Barnes and Noble is also all day. Teachers and staff will be at the store from 4:00-7:00 pm to greet everyone and wrap any Christmas presents you might purchase. Our Antonians will be singing at 5:30 pm in the children's section of the store. Flyers for Barnes and Noble will also be in the back of church. Please note that online orders can be placed from December 5 through December 10, 2017 using **book fair ID 12232633**. Thank you for your support!

Cantor training Begins

Our music ministry is entering a phase where it is necessary for us to train more cantors. Any high school, college or young adult who wishes to cantor can contact Mr. Perazza through Saint Anthony Rectory. One must have a pleasant singing voice, able to sing on key and the ability to read music. We provide training and all materials. It's important that we manage change and keep an eye to our future. Cantors are needed now.

Christmas Flowers



You may wish to help St. Anthony's with our Christmas flower expenses. If you want to donate poinsettias for our sanctuary decorations, a plant costs \$15. Just put your gift in an envelope and mark it, "Christmas Flowers." Include your name and the name of the person(s) in whose memory you are giving it. **Deadline is Monday, December 18th.** After New Year's, we will compile and publish a list of donors. Thank you!

Christmas Concert

St. Joseph on the Brandywine Music Ministry and Parish will present its Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10th, 2017 at 3PM in the Church at 10 Old Church Road, Greenville, DE. The program will include **Nativity Suites, a Cantata for Christmas** by Benjamin Harlan, and a carol sing-along with choir and organ. There will be a free will offering.

Catholic Forum

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, December 10th, author, Christopher Sparks will discuss his book, "How Can You Be Catholic?" For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/catholicforum. Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

Advent Penance Service

Sunday, December 10th

3:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Church, Wilmington