

*The Fourth Sunday
of Advent
December 18, 2011*



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FROM AGE TO AGE AND PLACE TO PLACE



There is a teaching from the rabbis that “When Israel wanders, God stays with them; when Israel stays in one place, God wanders.” Of course God never left the chosen people; this is the rabbis’ way of saying that human beings can get too grounded in earthly things and dwelling places. Our hearts get crowded, there is no room, and so God must wander. The people of ancient Israel were for much of their history a nomadic, wandering, tribal people. Their time in the desert and their years of exile in Babylon were the high points of their religious formation. Many feared that if a mortal ascended the throne of Israel as king, then God would be dethroned as the true king of Israel. Likewise they feared that if God had a permanent dwelling or temple, then they would no longer know the *shekinah* of God, their term for God pitching a tent in their midst, joining them as a companion in their journey. These fears underlie the voice of the prophet Nathan in today’s first reading.

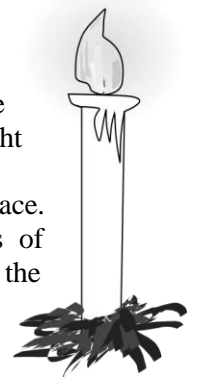
A PLACE FOR GOD TO DWELL

In a few short days, on Christmas morning, we will hear John’s Gospel account of the incarnation: “And the Word became Flesh, and came to dwell among us” (John 1:14). John uses the Greek version of *shekinah* to emphasize that Jesus, God among us, pitched his tent on earth to be our companion on our journey. For much of his earthly ministry, Jesus was an itinerant preacher, a nomad. While most of us live in permanent places and are not called to this kind of mobility, we would do well to ask if there is still a place in our hearts for Jesus to pitch his tent. As we have surely heard and read over the past several weeks, we ought to “keep Christ in Christmas.” This is a lesson for all seasons today, a lesson that Israel struggled to learn, a lesson that our own Church has struggled with as it assumed the trappings of earthly status. We need to make sure that when God-in-Flesh comes knocking at our door, we can respond that there is plenty of room within. Copyright © 2005, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We are approaching the darkest, longest night of the year. For centuries, people in the Northern Hemisphere have kindled fires against the dying of the light, turning away the dark of the winter solstice, and leading the imagination to hope and new beginnings. It is thus easy to understand why these solstice celebrations of non-Christian Europe attracted the annual remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

In time the solstice migrated away from December 25, but the Christmas feast remained in place. From this day, a whole season of celebration developed, stretching from Advent through the days of Christmas, and even beyond to the February 2 blessing of the candles, and beyond that to March 25, the Annunciation, nine months before the next Christmas. Centuries ago, this was New Year’s Day, and many reasoned that it was the date of Adam and Eve’s fall, and the date of the Crucifixion. The message is clear: don’t let your Christmas be over too soon. Keep the lights blazing into January, and savor the meaning of the feast!



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MASS INTENTIONS

December 18 - 25, 2011

Sun	8:00am	Mary Hus-D
	9:30am	William Knopf-D
	11:00am	Mary Moore-D
	5:30pm	Walter White-D
Tues	9:15am	Michael Picciano-D
Wed	9:15am	Ann Glenn-D
Thurs	9:15am	
Sat	4:00pm	Ann Glenn-D (Church)
		Bruce Handelong-D (PC)
	6:00pm	Catherine & Bernard
		Drake-D
	8:00pm	Mary Moore-D
	11:30pm	
Sun	9:00am	Albert & Francesca
		Colabucci-D
	11:00am	Steven Gavlak-D

Lord, grant each one listed in our Parish Book of Intentions, health of spirit, mind and body.



STEWARDSHIP REPORT DECEMBER 10 & 11, 2011

Monthly Budget Requirement	\$89,350.00
Total Attendance	1,445
Monthly Electronic Giving	\$780.00
Envelopes Month-to-Date	\$31,211.02
Non-Envelopes Month-to-Date	\$5,089.00
Children's Envelopes Month-to-Date	\$11.71



POOR BOX

December 10 & 11, 2011

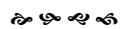
Haiti Outreach - \$632.27

Next week's Poor Box will be for
Lighthouse Shelter



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

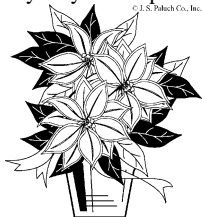
We would appreciate your prayers for those who are ill. **Bounnhang Vilaythong, David Barns, Andre Gaudreau, Suzanne Paridis, Peter Bouffard, Anthony Rossi, Kathy Pierce, Richard Sneddon, Vince Graas, Kenneth Santill, Brendan Walls, Sr. & Ken Smith.**



REST IN PEACE

We pray for the repose of the soul of
Katherine Maggio, Mary Stanton & Charles Damron

May they rest in peace.



Food Pantry News

December is **Spaghetti Sauce** month. Please remember a jar or can of **spaghetti sauce** each week. Thank you for all your donations to the food pantry.

Calendars for the Homeless

If you have any 2012 Calendars that you don't need or want, please drop them off in the box in the narthex to be delivered to the homeless. Thank you.

Revisit the Rosary

In 1859, in Lourdes, France, 14 year old Bernadette Soubirous experienced her life changing moment with the appearance of Our Blessed Virgin Mary who introduced Bernadette to the rosary. Every Friday at 10am, the rosary is recited with the residents of the Crofton Care and Rehabilitation Center. At the present time there is an urgent need for volunteers to recite the rosary with the residents. If you are interested and would like to join the volunteers, please call Sue Lowell at 410-721-4224.

Music Ministry

Children's Christmas Choir

Children's Christmas Choir rehearsal has begun. All children are welcome to join us on Mondays at 4pm in the Church. More voices are needed!

Join the Choir

The 9:30 Choir needs more voices! Please join us. For more information, contact Brendan Walls at 410-721-5770x231 or e-mail Brendan.walls@seaseton.org.

Sarah's House

Sarah's house has an immediate need for the following items: men's deodorant, bars of soap, new pillows, towels, wash cloths, blankets (beds are twin, but will accept any size), baby shampoo & soap, new children's underwear and undershirts (infant to size 16). Donations can be dropped off in the narthex and are greatly appreciated!

Our Respect Life Message

In the eyes of the world those who are in the last stages of life are somehow diminished in their humanity and should be eliminated. We must see them through God's eyes and recognize that each and every person is created in his image and likeness and that we are all connected to God and to each other. We are our brother's keeper and our sister's helper. Cain who forgot he was his brother's keeper ended up becoming his executioner. 'Thou shall not kill' is God's law and it is written in our hearts by our Creator.

~Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, Homily, Red Mass, Sept. 19, 2011 (<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources-for-the-eucharist/word-of-life/upload/word-of-life-2011-12.pdf>)

Rosary

Caring Ministry Rosary is prayed at 6:00pm on the last Thursday of every month except holidays. All are welcome and encouraged to pray this wonderful prayer on December 29, 2011.

Thank you from Santa!



Santa sent an email after returning to the North Pole saying he had a wonderful visit with our parishioners this past weekend. He was overwhelmed with the number of middle school & high school elves who volunteered their time to help serve food and take pictures. He also said the food prepared by our own Buildings & Grounds and Social committees was delicious. A special thank you to Gambrills Flower Farm for donating the beautiful tree and poinsettias. Santa looks forward to seeing you all next year and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

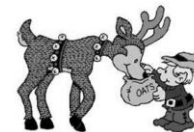
Evenings for Women

We will not meet this Tuesday, Dec. 20. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 17 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Ark. The book we are using this year is "Why Stay Catholic? Unexpected Answers to a Life-Changing Question". Books are still available (\$10). All are welcome - join us for a relaxing and enriching evening.

On Your Way Home

On Your Way Home is an opportunity for the men of our parish to meet on their way home from work to reflect on and share the Sunday Readings. The next meeting will be this week, **December 20 at 6:00pm** in the Conference Room. All are welcome! For more information, contact Bill Conroy at 410-721-9327 or WJConroy@verizon.net.

Faith Formation



**Merry
Christmas!**

No Classes December 22 & 29 or January 5th
Next Class: January 12th

First Eucharist

First Eucharist preparation begins on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm with a Parent Meeting in the Church. Please visit the parish website for additional information.

Confirmation



Session 5

General Session 5 will be held on **Monday, January 9, 2012 at 7:00pm** in the Great Hall. All candidates are required to attend.

Youth Ministry



Middle School Youth Group

Our next meeting is January 8th, 2012.

High School Youth Group

Our next meeting is January 22, 2012.

Parish Interest

Pastoral Spanish Classes/Spring 2012

Notre Dame of Maryland University

Spanish Language and Culture for Pastoral Settings is for professionals or volunteers who currently work with or will work with Hispanic communities in parishes, schools, hospitals or other pastoral settings. No prior experience in Spanish is necessary. For more information and class schedule, visit www.ndm.edu/PastoralSpanish. Contact: Linda Stilling, SSND at 410-532-5306 or lstillings@ndm.edu.

Bon Secours Spiritual Center

Bon Secours offers events and activities on an ongoing basis. On the calendar for January are Introduction to Zumba, Keep up the Spirit – A Day for Job Seekers and Career Changers, Introduction to Tai Chi Chih and Praying with Henri Nouwen. For a complete schedule and more information, visit www.BonSecoursSpiritualCenter.org.

Yoga for Life!

Crofton Yoga is sponsoring their 4th Annual Yoga for a Cause in support of organizations such as, Arundel House of Hope and Light House of Annapolis. 100% of your \$15 per class donation will be given to the chosen charity. Classes are the week of December 27-31. Visit CroftonYoga.com for more info or to register.



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

All married couples are cordially invited to join Archbishop Edwin O'Brien for the special World Marriage Day Mass and Reception at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles Street (*not the Basilica downtown*), **February 12, 2012 at 3:00pm**. The Mass will be bilingual in English and Spanish and interpreted for the deaf.

Seeking Our Longest Married Couple: Our parish is participating in Worldwide Marriage Encounter's search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. **One nominee** from each parish will be honored during a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Edwin O'Brien. Please report the names, address, wedding date, and phone number of your candidate couple, married at least 50 years, to the PARISH OFFICE no later than January 24, 2012. The parish will inform the longest married couple that their names have been submitted and the longest married from each parish will receive a follow-up call from the World Marriage Day committee, inquiring whether or not they plan to attend the Mass on Feb. 12, 2012 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. All longest married will receive a certificate from WWME.

CELEBRATING 25 or More YEARS?

Couples celebrating their 25th or more year anniversaries in 2012, register for recognition online by clicking on the World Marriage Day Button at <http://wwme.net/>, or by email to: BaltimoreAnniversaries@gmail.com or by phone to Committee Chairs, Chris and Darla Phillips, 410-987-4210 by **January 29, 2012**, to receive special recognition at the Mass, Feb.12, at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, 5200 N. Charles Street, Homeland (21210) and a letter of congratulations from the archbishop.

Marriage Encounter

The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is February 17-19, 2012. An early application is recommended. For more information and to apply online visit their website at wwme.net.

Evening Mass in Bowie

St. Edward's in Bowie has evening Masses every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30pm. All are welcome! Address - 1940 Mitchellville Rd. Parish phone - 301-249-9199

New Year's Eve Dinner Dance

You are invited to join your Odenton neighbors at Saint Joseph Church in their newly renovated Corrigan Hall on Saturday, the last evening of 2011 from 7:30pm – 1:00am. Say goodbye to the old year and usher in the new while enjoying a delicious catered meal and music by the DJ "Luney Tunes." There will be a Beer, Wine & Soda Bar, a champagne toast at midnight, door prizes and more! Tickets are \$45. Please call 410-703-7620 for reservations. Adults only.



School of the Incarnation

Pre-school – SOTI is opening a 4yr old pre-school program in Fall 2012. We would like you to take a moment and fill out a survey if you have an interest for your child to attend in the coming years. Please copy and paste the following link in your internet address bar. www.surveymonkey.com/s/FF5S2LB We appreciate your time and efforts to help us offer a wonderful pre-school to our Catholic community.

Box Tops & Labels for Education - Please help support SOTI by dropping your Box Tops and Labels for Education in the bin in the Vestibule (remember to include the UPC)! Thank you!



www.seaseton.org

FAITH BOOK

From today's Gospel reading:

The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.
...for nothing will be impossible for God."

Reflection:

Through our Baptism and Confirmation we too have been overshadowed by the Spirit and now we look for ways to let the Spirit be active through our lives as we serve the Lord. When we come up against obstacles and discouragement in our mission we will hear an echo of today's gospel, "For nothing is impossible for God."

So we ask ourselves:

- ♦ What do I need to do to say "Yes" to God in my life?
- ♦ Do I trust that God will help me do what feels impossible on my own?



JOY TO THE WORLD

The Dictionary of North American Hymnology lists "Joy to the World" as the most published Christmas carol in North America. Written by the great English Hymn composer Isaac Watts, "Joy to the World" is his setting of Psalm 98:4-9. It first appeared in 1719, and is a good example of Watts' reinterpretation of the psalms into a Christian context. The tune we use today for this familiar carol came a century later. It first showed up in 1833 in the Collection of Tunes by Thomas Hawkes with an annotation "From Handel." The carol is easy to sing with a repetitive refrain in each verse. With the first line proceeding straight down the scale, the melody is in comfortable reach for most voices making it a rousing carol for Christmas, especially with the addition of brass to a full organ accompaniment. Sing it joyfully this Christmas!



CALENDAR ♦ December 19-25, 2011

Monday	4:00 p.m.	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church
Tuesday	9:45 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
	6:00 p.m.	On Your Way Home	Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Liturgy Committee Meeting	Conference Room
	7:00 p.m.	Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting	Dove
Wednesday	4:30 p.m.	Teen Instrumentalist Rehearsal	Brendan's Office
	7:00 p.m.	Social Justice Committee Meeting	Conference Room
	7:30 p.m.	9:30 Choir Rehearsal	Church
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	11:00 Choir Rehearsal	Church
Sunday		Merry Christmas!	

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. Mass is signed for the hearing impaired*

Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Nursery available at the 9:30 a.m. Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Masses (September through June)

Eucharist at Neighboring Parishes

Holy Family, Davidsonville, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Church of the Holy Apostles, Gambrills, Sun., 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

St. Joseph, Odenton, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12:00

Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, Sat., 5:00 p.m.; Sun., 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 and 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNION CALLS

Please advise us if you would like Communion brought to a member of your family.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday from 9:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., or anytime by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Attendance at a baptismal preparation program is required before Baptism can be scheduled. Please call the Parish Office as early as possible to make arrangements. Preparation may begin any time during pregnancy.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

According to Archdiocesan policy, couples are required to make an appointment with a priest or deacon of the Parish at least six months in advance of the date they plan to celebrate their wedding in order to accommodate mandatory marriage preparation.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

Adults interested in full membership in the Catholic faith are asked to call the Parish Office for information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN (R.C.I.C.)

Children, ages 8-17, whose families are interested in initiation into the Catholic faith, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Readings for December 19-25, 2011

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Psalm 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Psalm 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14; Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Psalm 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Psalm 25:4bc, 5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

Saturday: Is 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Sunday: Is 52:7-10; Psalm 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Priest Presiders December 24 & 25, 2011

Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Father Mike Blastic (Church)
	4:00 p.m.	Father Jim Sabak (Parish Center)
	6:00 p.m.	Father Jim Sabak
	8:00 p.m.	Father Ed Connelly
Sunday	Midnight	Father Ed Connelly
	9:00 a.m.	Father Ed Connelly
	11:00 a.m.	Father Ed Connelly

Sick or Hospitalized?

Please notify the office or a staff member when someone in your family is sick, hospitalized or homebound. If you or a family member is admitted to Anne Arundel Medical Center, **please inform them that you are Catholic and your affiliation is St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.** This should be part of your admission process.