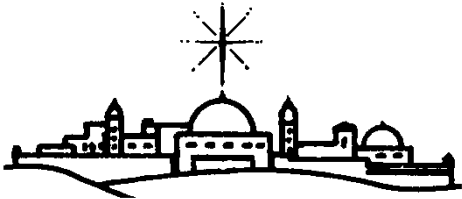


*Solemnity of the
Nativity of the Lord
December 25, 2011*



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



© Annika Nelson

An old joke asks, “What time is Midnight Mass?” The answer is not really obvious, since Christmas is unique in having several distinct celebrations. The readings and prayers vary greatly from hour to hour. The Vigil Mass hinges on the family heritage of Jesus and his origins. The concept of “midnight” predates clock time, and really has to do with a celebration in the hours of darkness. Years ago, it was not possible to receive Communion without fasting for a full day, so the late hour of this Mass made it possible for the people to receive. The first Mass after sunrise, the Mass at Dawn, was once known as “The Shepherds’ Mass,” and later Masses set aside stories of Jesus’ birth to focus on the key to the day’s celebration: John the Evangelist’s majestic theology of Christ’s identity as the Word made flesh, dwelling among us. One feast, four separate Masses. Only monasteries manage the whole round. Parishioners typically take just one entry point into the mystery. Yet there is much to savor and celebrate in the coming of Christ into the world. Christmas is not a day, but a season. You still have two weeks to send those Christmas cards before you’re officially late! —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our glory is to stand before the world as your own sons and daughters. May the simple beauty of Jesus’ birth summon us always to love what is most deeply human and to see your word made flesh reflected in those whose lives we touch.



Nancy Connell *Jack O'Malley*
Dixon Iacovazzo *Angie Robb* *Christa Pellard*
Preradnik *Barbara Emlen* *Patti Lust*
Kelly Kotwicki *Deacon Fred Seibold*
Mary Kay Lanning *Jennifer Lukas*
Sister Katherine *Father Ed Connolly*



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MASS INTENTIONS

December 25, 2011 – January 1, 2012

Sun	9:00am	Albert & Francesca Colabucci-D
	11:00am	Steven Gavlak-D
Sat	4:30pm	Steve Kurylas-D
Sun	8:00am	Parishioners
	9:30am	Estela Guander-D
	11:00am	Respect Life Awareness
	5:30pm	Rita Cocciaro-D

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

Please note that we will not have daily Mass or Communion Services this week.

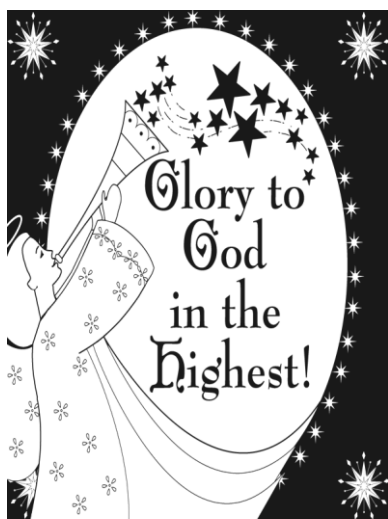


THE STEWARDSHIP REPORT WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK.



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

We would appreciate your prayers for those who are ill. **Bounhang Vilaythong, David Barns, Andre Gaudreau, Suzanne Paradis, Peter Bouffard, Anthony Rossi, Kathy Pierce, Richard Sneddon, Vince Graas, Kenneth Santill, Robert Rodriguez, Paula Hagan, Ann Mayefskie, Brendan Walls, Sr. & Ken Smith.**



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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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.

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.

Music Ministry

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 needs 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. Donations can be dropped off in the narthex!

Our Respect Life Message

Pope Benedict XVI Quote: "The beginning of the Liturgical Year helps us live anew the expectation of God who took flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary, God who makes himself little, who becomes a child; it speaks to us of the coming of a God who is close, who chose to experience human life from the very beginning in order to save it totally, in its fullness. And so the mystery of Lord's Incarnation and the beginning of human life are closely and harmoniously connected and in tune with each other in the one saving plan of God, the Lord of the life of each and everyone". ~Pope Benedict XVI, Homily at Celebration of First Vespers of the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27, 2011

Christmas Bookmark: In honor of the birth of Jesus, the Respect Life Committee invites you to please pick up the beautiful bookmark with a thoughtful prayer by Pope John Paul. These bookmarks are in the Christmas basket in the vestibule.

Respect Life Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 5th, at 7:30pm in the first floor conference room of the Connelly Parish Center. All are welcome.

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 this Thursday, December 29, 2011.

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

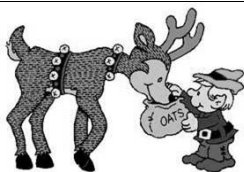
Awakening Faith

All of us know someone who doesn't come to church anymore. Please share with them the "gift of your faith and invite them to Seton's program - "Awakening Faith" which will begin January 11. A brochure has been sent to your home explaining the program which is both for those who have been away from the church and for those active Catholics who wish to learn more about their faith. Check out our website or take a brochure from the magazine rack in the foyer. For more information, please contact Sister Katherine at 410-721-5770 ext. 233 or Katherine.Odonnell@seaseton.org.

Adult Confirmation

Did you miss Confirmation as a youth? At the beginning of January, we will be forming a group of adults who are regular, practicing Catholics and who would like to begin preparation for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The program will include an interview, six Wednesday evening sessions beginning early January to explore your faith and another session to prepare for reception of the Sacrament which could be scheduled some time in the spring. If you are interested, contact Deacon Fred Seibold, email: Fred.Seibold@seaseton.org.

Faith Formation



Merry Christmas!

No Classes December 29 or January 5
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



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 St. (*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 and a letter of congratulations from the archbishop.

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.

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.

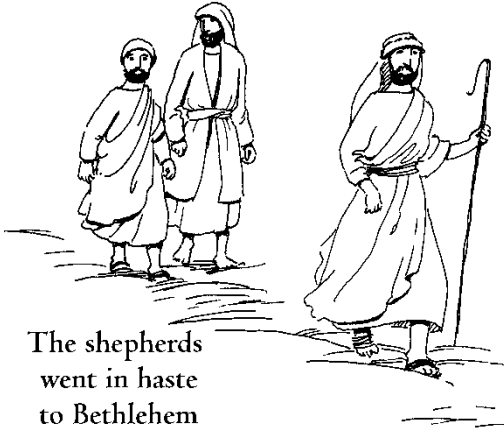


School of the Incarnation

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/FF5S2LBWe 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!

THE SHEPHERDS OF CHRISTMAS



The shepherds
went in haste
to Bethlehem

In two of the Gospel readings for Christmas Day, the shepherds figure prominently. Why? Nothing is said to indicate they were outstandingly good men or that they were leaders in the Bethlehem community.

Thomas Aquinas wondered whether it was fitting that these shepherds got the announcement of Jesus' birth first. He concluded that it was because the shepherds represented the Jewish people and the magi the Gentile world. But still, why shepherds? Recently some have reasoned that shepherds were fitting recipients because they were so ecologically correct, close to nature and all that.

But could it have been for a much simpler reason? The shepherds were just there, in the right place and the right time. Who else would be awake at midnight? Who else would be out on the hillside beneath the arc of the mighty sky?

More relevant to us is their reaction to the news brought by the angelic host. The shepherds should inspire us to ask ourselves: what is my reaction to the news? Isaiah says the reaction should be "abundant joy and great rejoicing." Paul tells us that it gives us the opportunity to live "temperately, justly, and devoutly."

The angels' message invites us to rejoice because Christ is born again in our hearts. The angels sing—but their song only makes sense to those waiting, hoping, and believing. Why shepherds? Why not? They cluster around the crib to remind us that Christmas belongs to the simple people who hear, accept, and come to this amazing scene.

OUR MESSAGE AT CHRISTMAS

Because they were at the nativity scene, the shepherds have become an integral part of Christmas. They returned to their lonely hillside but they told what had happened. They glorified and praised God for what they had heard and seen.

Shouldn't that be our reaction to Christmas? God's word and grace come to us—to each of us in our own place. When we hear the news of Christmas, should we not come to see what has taken place? Like the shepherds, we are exhorted to get up and see, to make Christmas an integral part of our lives.

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CALENDAR ♦ December 26, 2011 – January 1, 2012

Monday		Office Closed	
Tuesday	9:45 a.m.	Eucharistic Adoration	Church
	7:30 p.m.	Haiti Outreach Meeting	Ark
Thursday	6:00 p.m.	Caring Ministry Rosary	Church
Sunday		Blessings for the New Year!	

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 26, 2011- January 1, 2012

Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Psalm 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17; Mt 10:17-22

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Psalm 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Friday: Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Psalm 105:1-6, 8-9; Lk 2:22-40

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Psalm 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Priest Presiders December 31, 2011 & January 1, 2012

Saturday 4:30 p.m. Father Ed Connelly

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Father Vince Cushing

9:30 a.m. Father Vince Cushing

11:00 a.m. Father Ed Connelly

5:30 p.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.