

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*December 6, 2009*

### THIS WEEK'S READINGS, FOR YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 6</b>	Baruch 5:1-9	Psalm 126:1-6	Philippians 1:4-6,8-11	Luke 3:1-6
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Dec. 7</b>	Isaiah 35:1-10	Psalm 85:9-14		Luke 5:17-26
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Dec. 8</b>	Genesis 3:9-15,20	Psalm 98:1-4	Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Dec. 9</b>	Isaiah 40:25-31	Psalm 103:1-10		Matthew 11:28-30
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Dec. 10</b>	Isaiah 41:13-20	Psalm 145		Matthew 11:11-15
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	Isaiah 48:17-19	Psalm 1		Matthew 11:16-19
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Dec. 12</b>	Zechariah 2:14-17	Judith 13:18-19		Luke 1:26-38
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Dec. 13</b>	Zephaniah 3:14-18	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 3:10-18

### *FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK*

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent is one of preparation. We prepare to celebrate both Christ's coming at Christmas and His future Coming at the end of time. Last Sunday's Reading from First Thessalonians seemed to me to present a good understanding of how much these two preparations for Jesus have in common. St. Paul wrote, "Now . . . we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, even as you learned from us how to conduct yourselves in a way pleasing to God – which you are indeed doing – so you must learn to make still greater progress" (1 Thess 4:1). Having already experienced the power of our salvation breaking into our lives, we are "to make greater progress" until the Lord returns as judge.

One of the ways the Lord Jesus gave to help us "make greater progress" is the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Reconciliation with God is the purpose and effect of this sacrament. For those who receive the sacrament of Penance with contrite heart and religious disposition, reconciliation "is usually followed by peace and serenity of conscience with strong spiritual consolation." Indeed the Sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true "spiritual resurrection," restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God. (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1468)

I invite you to come to a Communal Penance Service with the opportunity for individual confession of sins and reception of absolution. Our area celebrations will be held on:

**Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, here at St. John's,**

and on

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, St. Joseph Parish in Buckeystown**

**Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM, St. Timothy Parish in Walkersville.**

Priests will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with individuals on:

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:30 PM, and after the 7:00 PM Mass**

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00-11:00 AM and 7:30-9:30 PM.

The last scheduled opportunity to receive this Sacrament before Christmas will be

**Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**, 3:00-4:30 PM and after the 7:00 PM Mass.

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**ADVENT SUNDAY EVENSONG** this Sunday, **December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM**, in the Church, and each Sunday evening during Advent. Everyone is welcome to this beautiful praying of the psalms and readings.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY, IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.** Masses are: **Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, Vigil Mass 7:30 PM; Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:15 PM, 6:00 PM Spanish, and 7:30 PM. All in the Church.**

**LET US JOIN IN PRAYER THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN EMBRACED BY GOD IN A SPECIAL WAY:**

**In Baptism:**

**Vincent Thomas Maradei**, Child of Mark & Terri Maradei

**In Marriage:**

Ana Bettis Melgar & Pedra Alberto Mendez, Validation

**In Their Passage to Eternal Life:**

Paul Daniel Martin  
Deacon Verdan "Buzz" P. Wiedel  
Mary Brown

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** All are invited to participate in the **Midnight Mass Prelude, beginning at 11:00 PM**, entitled *A Journey to the Manger in Song*. We will tell the Christmas Story with wonderful choir anthems, carols, and Scripture. Come, join in the journey!

**CHRISTMAS POTLUCK:** Join the 50+ Group for a Christmas potluck, **Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**, in the Community Center cafeteria. Please bring a dish to

share, a donation for the Food Bank, and your holiday joy. To RSVP, call Rosalie, 301-607-6355.

**OUR ANNUAL Christmas Basket Program** is in full swing! If you have not done so and would like to sponsor a family or senior citizen from St. Gregory the Great Parish in Baltimore, please contact Elizabeth List, 301-695-6135. You may also make a cash or check donation and volunteers will do the shopping. Make checks payable to "Christmas Basket" and place in the collection basket or mail to the Parish Office. Thank you to all who have already chosen a family. All items will be collected outside the H/F room below the Atrium on **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM-12 Noon and Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.**

**THE JESSE TREE REMINDER:** All **unwrapped packages** with the ornament attached must be brought in **by Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. Sometime this week, Deacon Skip Manley will deliver the packages to Western Maryland for those families in need. Any gifts brought in after December 7<sup>th</sup> will be distributed locally. The Jesse Tree has been sponsored by the Catholic Daughters.

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST!** The Knights of Columbus will serve a Pancake Breakfast, **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 AM-1:00 PM**, in the Community Center cafeteria. Proceeds will benefit the Birthright Center located here in Frederick. Birthright is there for every woman who calls for help. It supports them in a range of services from simple pregnancy testing through delivery and beyond. See insert in today's bulletin. Your support of this very worthy program will be much appreciated by all.

**A PILIPINO COMMUNITY** is forming here at St. John's. Please join us for a "Get Together & Getting to Know You" afternoon with a Christmas theme. Parishioners are invited to join this International Food Potluck, **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-6:00 PM**, in the Community Center cafeteria. Please see insert in today's bulletin for full details.

**CHOCOLATE RETREAT!** A women's retreat is planned for **January 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeystown. Join us as we connect the extravagance of chocolate with the extravagance of God's love and grace. There are still a few spaces available. If you would like to give the gift of a Chocolate Retreat to a special woman in your life, contact Amy Spessard for details and gift certificates, 301-662-8288 x1102. The registration forms with full details are available at the parish office or on our website, [www.stjohn-frederick.org](http://www.stjohn-frederick.org). Contact Amy Spessard, 301-662-8288 x1102.

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR of the Historic Houses of Worship, Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 4:00-9:00 PM.** More details will be in next weekend's bulletin.

## MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

**STAND CERTIFICATION FOR ALL VOLUNTEERS:** The Archdiocese of Baltimore and St. John's Parish are committed to providing a safe environment for children at our parish. **All volunteer ministers** who work with or around families and children must be STAND certified. STAND training is available on line. Please visit [www.stjohn-frederick.org](http://www.stjohn-frederick.org) and click on STAND Training. Contact Erica May, 301-662-8288 x1105 for more info.

### RESPECT LIFE CORNER:

**Are You Pregnant** and in need of help? Call the Gabriel Network, 1-800-ANGEL-OK or Birthright, 301-663-0111.

**Suffering Post-Abortion Syndrome?** Call Project Rachel, 1-800-286-4224.

### PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

December 2009

*"You are well acquainted with the favor shown you by our Lord Jesus Christ: how for your sake he made himself poor though he was rich, so that you might become rich by his poverty . . ."*  
2 Corinthians 8:9

Consider gifts that make a difference and keep on giving. Ideas from Catholic Relief Services: A gift basket of projects is a simple way to honor the ones you love most by giving hope to people in tremendous need - see [gifts.crs.org](http://gifts.crs.org). Buying fair trade products is a way to bring the values of our faith to bear in the marketplace and to make consumer choices that help lift our brothers and sisters around the world out of poverty - see [crsfairtrade.org](http://crsfairtrade.org).

**SCOUTING: Are You Interested** in having your child in a Catholic Scouting Unit? St. John's has Catholic Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts (Elementary boys), and Boy Scouts (Middle & High School). For more info, contact Julie St. Croix, 301-662-8288 x1103 (Girl Scouts), Bill Desmond, 301-662-4151 (Cub Scouts), or Nelson Spessard, 301-846-4217 (Boy Scouts).

**Troop 1274** is looking for a burn barrel to be used for flag retiring ceremonies and on camp-outs. If you can help, please contact Amy Spessard, 301-662-8288 x1102.

**The Boy Scouts** would like to thank the parish for their support with the last fundraiser!

**JUST A REMINDER** that if you ordered Poinsettias from the parish Boy Scouts, they will be available for pick-up **next Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM-12 Noon** in the back parking lot.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS' Wolfgang Candy, Wrapping Paper, & Candles:** Last order date is **December 7<sup>th</sup>**, just in time for Christmas. Proceeds from this fundraiser will support our charitable giving. Call Joanne to place your order, 301-663-5655.

**SPONSOR COUPLES NEEDED:** St. John's is looking for Sponsor Couples to help prepare engaged couples for marriage. If you feel called as a couple to share the gift of your Sacrament of Marriage, please contact Amy Spessard for details, 301-662-8288 x1102.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** is looking for more members! If you would like to become a part of this ministry, please contact Nancy, 301-371-9045.

## FAITH FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

**NATIVITY PLAY: On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM,** in the Hall, the Elementary Faith Formation Classes will present a Nativity Play. We invite all families to come and join us as we sing some of our favorite Christmas carols.

**CONFIRMATION: PARENTS,** Please contact Erica May, 301-662-8288 x1105, to schedule your Confirmation interview. **STUDENTS,** Please check out [www.stjohn.com](http://www.stjohn.com) for ideas on choosing a Confirmation saint's name and service project ideas.

**HSYM, Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>: On Loan.** The goal is to help teens understand how our faith calls us to care for and protect the environment, and recognize it as a reflection of who God is. This night will challenge the teens to live as faithful stewards of God's creation.

**Next week at HSYM,** we will have a special guest coming from Catholic Relief Services - Ted Miles, Youth Ministry representative. Ted will bring our semester on Social Justice to a close and show our teens how Social Justice is a core component of our Catholic identity.

**MSYM, Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>: Eucharistic Adoration.** Youth will learn how they can grow in their faith by giving thanks to God in Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. Parents are welcome and are encouraged to pray for this MSYM night.

**ENJOY MUSIC? Attention, High School Teens and Adults!** We are forming a Praise and Worship Band. If you are interested in joining or just want to know more about it, come join us **Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-6:00 PM** in the Community Center Hall. Or, contact Joe Mele, 301-662-8288 x1104 or [joe.mele@stjohn-frederick.org](mailto:joe.mele@stjohn-frederick.org).

## SPANISH COMMUNITY

**Legion de Maria** Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz. Junta semanal todos los Jueves a las 7:00 PM. Necesitamos mas miembros que se quieran unir al grupo. Trabajemos juntos en union a nuestra Madre Maria. Para mas informacion contactar a: Nitza Rivas - 240-409-1998, Myriam Rullan 240-422-1718.

## ST. JOHN REGIONAL SCHOOL

**APPLICATIONS** are now being accepted for Pre-K – 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2010-2011 school year. For more details or to schedule a tour of the school, call Admissions, 301-695-9358 or visit [www.sjrsc.org](http://www.sjrsc.org). Tours are conducted daily from 9:00-11:00 AM.

**STORY-TIME TOTS, Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 8:45 AM,** at the school. The program is open to 3- and 4-year-olds and features a monthly theme, a craft, and refreshments. This month's theme: *Happy Birthday Jesus*. Please call Jean Wright, 301-695-9358 or email [jwright@strcs.org](mailto:jwright@strcs.org), to reserve a spot for your child.

## BEYOND THE PARISH

**ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP,** High School Placement Test, **Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM Registration, 9:00 AM Testing.** Testing fee is \$30. Please call the school at 301-662-4210. School is located at 889 Butterfly Lane, Frederick, MD.

### STEWARDSHIP/FINANCES

#### 11/22/2009

Envelope Users (546) ..... \$19,145.56  
 Non-Envelope Users ..... \$ 5,751.94  
 EFT Giving 11/20/2009 ..... \$ 7,810.50  
 TOTAL Offertory..... \$32,708.00  
**Weekly Stewardship Giving Needed ..... \$28,251.00**  
 Second Collection: CHD ..... \$ 4,137.72  
 St. Vincent de Paul Society (Poor Fund) \$ 1,435.04

#### 11/29/2009

Envelope Users (499) ..... \$17,926.50  
 Non-Envelope Users ..... \$ 3,861.90  
 TOTAL Offertory..... \$21,788.40  
**Weekly Stewardship Giving Needed ... \$28,251.00**  
 Second Collection: Debt Reduction ..... \$ 6,105.74  
 Total Debt Payment Due Nov 2009 ..... \$ 8,662.33  
 Thanksgiving Collection ..... \$ 1,846.00  
 St. Vincent de Paul Society (Poor Fund) \$ 2,180.05

Thank you for your continued generosity!

### WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

"SP" = Mass in Spanish

|                                                           |                                                                               |                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday<br>December 7                                      | 6:30 AM<br>8:00 AM<br>7:30 PM Vigil                                           | Special Intention<br>Msgr. Edward V. Echle<br>Timothy Thalheimer                                                         |
| Tuesday<br>December 8<br><i>Immaculate<br/>Conception</i> | 6:30 AM<br>8:00 AM<br>12:15 PM<br>6:00 PM (SP)<br>7:30 PM                     | Noreen Grove<br>Frank Coccagna (Birthday)<br>Ints. Erna Nacpil<br>Special Intention<br>Patricia O'Connor<br>(Birthday)   |
|                                                           | 6:30 AM<br>8:00 AM<br>Golden Living<br>6:30 PM (SP)                           | Noreen Grove (Birthday)<br>Thelma Miller<br>Anna Hamilton<br>Special Intention                                           |
| Thursday<br>December 10                                   | 6:30 AM<br>8:30 AM                                                            | Virginia Grove<br>John Baer                                                                                              |
| Friday<br>December 11                                     | 6:30 AM<br>8:00 AM                                                            | M. J. Grove<br>William E. Baer & Family                                                                                  |
| Saturday<br>December 12                                   | 8:00 AM<br>5:00 PM<br>6:00 PM (SP)<br>7:00 PM                                 | Arthur G. Manalo<br>Kathryn Blondeaux<br>(Birthday)<br>Special Intention<br>Joseph Greulich                              |
| Sunday<br>December 13                                     | 7:30 AM<br>9:00 AM<br>11:00 AM Ch<br>11:00 AM Hall<br>1:00 PM<br>5:00 PM (SP) | Carmen Lay<br>Charles E. Walker, Jr.<br>People of the Parish<br>Anita Evetts<br>Laura G. Frownfelter<br>Halina Smukowski |