

## Second Sunday of Advent December 4, 2011

*In today's gospel we hear John the Baptist exhorting us to prepare the way of the Lord. If we are to prepare the Lord's way, if we are to be Christ-bearers in this world, we must be willing to empty ourselves of all that is not compatible with Christ. This is a lifelong process and it is helpful to have good companions along the way—like those of us gathered here. Let us pray today to continue together on the way of perfection and welcome Jesus into our lives.*

### Masses of the Week

Beginning Dec. 5, 2011

**8:00 am Daily Mass**

**MON:** Dorothy Drury      Salvatore & Gino DiStefano

**TUES:** Stan Snyder

**WED:** Barry Riggins

**THURS:** The Murphy Family

**FRI:** John McCoy

**SAT:** Wagner and Lochte Families

**Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011**

**4:30 PM:** John Herring

**6:00 PM:** People of the Parish

**Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011**

**7:30 AM:** Giovanni Noto

**9:00 AM:** John Sushinsky

**10:30 AM** Cristina Burce

**Noon** Phillip Bossing

**Immaculate Conception – December 8**

**6:00 PM Wed.** Mary Aileen Williams

**12:00 Noon** People of the Parish

**1:45 PM (School)** Theodore Thormann

**7:00 PM** Alice De Martino

**N.H. – indicates Nursing Home**

**S.I. – indicates Special Intention**

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS for Dec. 11, 2011

First: Isa 61:1-2a, 10-11 Glad tidings to the poor and brokenhearted.

Second: 1 Thes 5:16-24 Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

Gospel: John 1:6-8:19-24 John the Baptist: the voice crying in the wilderness.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** Christmas Flower Memorial Envelopes are available in the monthly packet, in the parish mailing and at the doors of the Church. These flowers will remain on the Altar throughout the Christmas season.

**PRAYER CHAIN** If you have a PRAYER REQUEST call any member of the IHM Prayer Chain: Call Mary Ann Thaler 410-668-7738, Corrine Kelly 410 -252-2009

Congratulations to the Thirty-Seven young people of the parish who received THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION this weekend. Our prayers are with you all now and for your future.

Collections for the Weekend of Nov. 27, 2011

Envelope Donations	\$	8138.49	
Loose	\$	1315.31	
Children	\$	85.13	
Total	\$	9538.93	
Less Cathedraticum	\$	1430.83	
Available for Parish	\$	8108.10	
Second Collection	\$	4557.42	Cap. Camp.
Poor Box	\$	389.62	

**ELECTRONIC GIVING.** – is a direct payment program whereby your contribution is debited automatically from either your checking or saving account, or can be charged to your credit card. Call parish office at 410-668-7935. Ext.209 The form is also available on the Parish website

**RESPECT LIFE** A group of 27 senators is asking the Obama administration to provide more information concerning the grant this administration refused to renew to the nation's Catholic bishops because they will not refer for abortions. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Migration and Refugee Services had previously received a five-year \$19 million grant to help victims of sex trafficking. More than 2,700 victims have been provided with comprehensive case management services including medical and mental health services. The nation's Catholic bishops are considering a lawsuit against the administration for denying renewal of this grant and seek a list of grant applicants, copies of the applications, scores and comments from an independent review and documents related to communications concerning the decision to ensure that no bias occurred due to the pro-life position of the USCCB. Sister Mary Ann Walsh of the USCCB writes: "The program worked well on the ground, but not so well for distant administrators promoting the abortion and contraceptive agenda who bristle at the fact that, in accord with church teaching, USCCB will not facilitate sterilization, artificial contraception, or the taking of innocent life in abortion." (LifeNews.com, 11/14/11)  
To join the parish Respect Life Committee call Betty Steinbacher at 410 665-8645.

Please Remember God's Poor by using the **Poor Boxes** as you leave Mass. Your donations go to our **IHM St. Vincent de Paul** Office to help with those in our parish who are in need.

**Our PARISH PENANCE SERVICE is Tuesday,  
December 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Church. This will be  
a Penance Service followed by individual confessions.  
We have invited several additional priests to be  
available to hear confession.**

**St. Vincent de Paul**

Next weekend, December 10 - 11 is our collection for the pantry food. The items most needed for the pantry:

Cereal, canned fruit, warm drinks, peanut butter and jelly  
Canned vegetables, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese,  
Tuna fish and crackers

Thanks to your generosity, approximately 65 families were helped last month with food, rent, BGE bills, and bus tokens. Please check the expiration dates on your food. Six bags of food discarded this month. Our pantry is very low. **PLEASE HELP.** If you are away the week of the food drive, you can bring your donation another weekend.

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**HYMNALS:** You may have noticed there is a new paperback hymnal in the pews "CHOOSE CHRIST." This hymnal will mainly be used at the 10:30am Mass as it contains more recently written Contemporary Praise and Worship Music. We ask that you please do not remove these or any of the hymnals from the pews.

Join us in celebration of the Advent Season!  
**Festival of Lessons & Carols for Advent Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> 5:00 PM St. Joseph Church Fullerton** with the combined choirs of St. Joseph St. Isaac Jogues, St. Ursula Immaculate Heart of Mary Featuring combined adult & children's choirs, the St. Isaac Ringers, the St. Isaac Junior Ringers, organ, and instrumentalists. All are welcome.

Our St. Vincent De Paul Committee has chosen four organizations to assist through our Advent Giving Program. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus let us seek to imitate His love by sharing with those in need. Monetary contributions or gift certificates from Target, Giant, etc. also will be used to make Christmas a happier time for our parish community families who are in need. Also anyone interested in **sponsoring a family**, please call 410-663-4357

**ADVENT GIVING PROGRAM – WEEK THREE  
DECEMBER 10-11  
BALTIMORE PREGNANCY CENTER**

This Center has been helping expectant mothers for over 20 years. They are assisted throughout the entire pregnancy and after the arrival of the infant. They are offered help with clothing, diapers, cribs, etc. The items most needed:

Baby Bath/ Soap and Lotions	Baby Shampoo
Wipes	Bottles
Diapers (size 2-6)	Bibs and Gowns
Onesies (Newborn and Small)	Crib Sheets
Receiving Blankets	Rattles, Teething toys
Sleep & Play (Newborn & Small)	Towels/Washcloths
Socks - infant and toddler	Undershirts – all sizes
Clothing (Newborn & Toddler	Sweater Sets (infant)

**Please do not wrap the gifts. Please bring them to Mass next weekend.**

**PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

“So, beloved, while waiting for this, make every effort to be found without stain or defilement, and at peace in his sight.” As we pray about our vocations, remember that there are many things that hinder us from hearing the voice of the Lord. His voice is found in but a tiny whisper. Take the time this week to free yourself of anything that might be holding you back from approaching the Lord.. Contact Rev. Austin A. Murphy, Director of Vocations at 410-547-5426.

**Welcome to Our Smoke-Free Campus**

In order to comply with the new Archdiocesan Policy, as of **November 1, 2011**, on School days from 7AM to 5PM the buildings and property at Immaculate Heart of Mary will be a non-smoking campus. We will move to full compliance in order to provide for a smoke-free campus 24/7, on January 1, 2012. Please help us to provide a healthy environment for all our students, parishioners and employees.

*Fr. Mike*

**FAITH FORMATION:** If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or have questions about Adult Confirmation or RCIA, please contact Amie Post in the Faith Formation Office on 410-661-3820 or [apost@immaculateheartofmary.com](mailto:apost@immaculateheartofmary.com)

**Please do not remove the new prayer cards from the pews. To print a copy or to read about the changes go to: <http://www.catholicreview.org/newmissal/>**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
is December 8<sup>th</sup> and  
A Holy Day of Obligation.**

Our Mass Schedule is:

**Wednesday,** Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm  
**Thursday,** Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 8:00am, Noon, 1:45 pm and  
7: 00 pm - The 1:45 Mass is the School Mass.

**FAMILY PRAYER** helps children realize the value and importance of prayer in everyday life. Enrich your life and that of your children by praying morning, night, and meal prayers together.

**LECTOR WORKBOOKS - are still available for pick-up in the sacristy after all the Masses this weekend.**

**ADVENT GIVING PROGRAM - 2011**