The Third Sunday of Advent

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today’s Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor’s office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today’s Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent.

Taken from www.loyolapress.com

Stewardship Report: Revenue

December 6th: 12,987.00
Faith Direct: 2,350.00
Total Offertory: 15,337.00
Last Year: 13,428.00

Recent Expenditures
Parish paid school and employee benefits Oc. & Nov. $16,277.16
Supplies for sacristy and worship.............$1,196.37
Baltimore Gas & Electric.........................$2,329.00

Retirement Fund for Religious: Our second collection this weekend is for the continuing care of our elderly religious. Share your gratitude for the senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who made a positive difference in so many lives. Envelopes have been placed in the pews for your convenience. Please give generously to this collection.

Looking Ahead

Marathon to Support the Academy of St. Matthias
Sign up to run and fundraise with us! On March 12, 2016, teachers and friends from all over the country will come to Washington, D.C., to support the Academy of Saint Matthias the Apostle! Sign up for the run at http://runrocknroll.com/dc.

The St. Matthias Prayer Group meets every Sunday in the Church after the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Hosting An Event? Friendship Hall is available for rent. For information, please contact Thad Ereme at 301-459-4814 or email tereme@stmatthias.org.

Year of Mercy

Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.

-Pope Francis

A Great Holiday Stocking Stuffer: The Academy Annual Lottery

Please support our school by purchasing raffle tickets for $10 each. The weekly drawing begins January 4, 2016, and ends August 29, 2016. The weekly winner receives $300 and the seller receives $50. Tickets may be purchased in the school office or in the Hughes Center parish office. A ticket makes a great stocking stuffer!
Items of Note

Two-Way Immersion Early Childhood Program: The Academy of Saint Matthias the Apostle announces the start of a Two-Way Immersion program (Spanish/English) starting in Pre-K and Kindergarten for the Fall of 2016. This program is part of the Two-Way Immersion Network of Catholic Schools which is comprised of 19 catholic schools nationwide, linked by Boston College. Applications for the program (Pre-K 4 and Kindergarten), along with limited slots for transfer applications, will open December 10th. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Vivian Richards, Director of Admissions at vrichards@stmatthias.org or 301-577-9412.

Christmas Giving Tree: The Christmas Giving Tree is decorated with ornaments bearing the names of organizations and requested gifts. Please take an ornament and return it along with the unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 20th. Items may be dropped off in the Church or Hughes Center. Thank you for making the season special for those in need!

Calling all Teens! The Saint Matthias Teen Youth Group will meet today, Sunday, December 13th from 12 pm to 2:30 pm in the Hughes Center. Refreshments will be provided! For more information, contact Le-Marie Thompson at 301-452-2258 or Arlene Taylor at 301-459-5549.

Mass Intentions for the Third Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 14: Saint John of the Cross, Priest
8:30 am   Erin Tervo
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm Confessions
7:30 pm   Vigil Mass
Adoration and Benediction are cancelled for the evening.

Tuesday, December 15:
8:30 am   Father Joseph Ranieri (Living—Anniversary. Of Ordination)
8:30 am   Ted Wilson

Wednesday, December 16:
8:30 am   Joan Okigbo (Living)

Thursday, December 17:

Friday, December 18:
8:30 am   Jack Keightley (Living—Birthday)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 19:
5:00 pm   Gregorio Danny Delizo (Living)

Sunday, December 20:
8:00 am   Linda Morgan
10:30 am   Mary and Macaulay Nzefili
6:00 pm   Claude Cumberbatch

Readings for the Second Sunday of Advent
1st Reading: Micha 5:1-4a
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Please pray for the sick and homebound in our parish, our neighbors, family, and friends:

Ronnie Davis; Jade Jackson; Jack Jordan; Kay Kaderabek; John and Joan Kodak; Joe Makowski; Tim O’Leary; Marion Prout; Pablo Rocha; Jayce Richardson; Marian Thomas; Kevin Tagoalem; John and Joan Kodak; Joe Makowski; Tim O’Leary; Marion Prout; Pablo Rocha; Jayce Richardson; Marian Thomas; Kevin Tagoalem; Jimmy Wallerstedt; Madeline White

-For our military, protect them from all harm.
-For all the faithful departed, may they rest in peace.

Names will be placed on our prayer list for 4 weeks. To place a name on the list, please contact Pat Ford at 301-459-4814 x 201 or email pford@stmatthias.org.

Cebrant Mass Schedule for the Weekend of December 19/20
5:00 pm   Father Keke
8:00 am   Msgr. Ayeah
10:30 am   Father Keke
6:00 pm   Father Milt

Adventure Devotion
Your light will come, O Jerusalem. The Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty. We shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God. The sign of the cross shall appear in the heavens, when our lord shall come to judge the world.